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3-language rule worries teachers

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THE HINDU
greets its readers
on the occasion of
ID-UL-AZHA

SC upholds SIR, says it is EC's constitutional duty

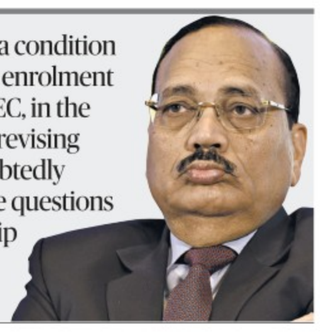
Court says EC can verify citizenship for inclusion or exclusion from voter list; it asks poll body to refer names of Bihar electors purged from rolls to Centre for adjudication under Citizenship Act

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls as an exercise done by the Election Commission (EC) in furtherance of its constitutional obligation to conduct free and fair elections.

"SIR bears a direct nexus to the constitutional goal of a free and fair election. Free and fair elections do not rest merely upon the mechanics of polling. They equally depend upon the integrity, accuracy, and purity of the electoral roll which forms the foundation of the democratic process," a Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said.

> Citizenship is a condition precedent for enrolment [in electoral rolls]. The EC, in the course of preparing or revising electoral rolls, is undoubtedly empowered to examine questions bearing upon citizenship
>
> **SURYA KANT**
> Chief Justice of India



The judgment affirming the constitutionality of the Bihar SIR will have an impact on further rounds of the exercise.

The court dismissed the view of the petitioners that the SIR was a backdoor attempt to conduct citizenship screening in the name of "purifying" the electoral roll of "aliens". The EC was well within its authority to verify citizenship to the limited extent of determining inclusion or exclusion from the electoral roll, it said. "Citizenship is a condition precedent for enrolment. The EC, in the course of preparing or revising electoral rolls, is undoubtedly empowered to examine questions bearing upon citizenship," Chief Justice Kant, who authored the 124-page judgment, observed.

The court directed the poll body to refer, within the next four weeks, the names of electors who were part of the 2003 electoral roll but were purged in the Bihar SIR on the grounds of being non-citizens, to the Centre for adjudication by a competent authority under the Citizenship Act.

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Respectfully disagree: Cong.

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday said it "respectfully disagreed" with the Supreme Court order upholding the legality of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. » PAGE 12

Ahead of breakfast meet, CM accepts caste survey report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While all eyes are on Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's breakfast meeting with Cabinet Ministers on Thursday, after which he may announce his decision to step down, in a surprise move on Wednesday evening, he accepted the much-debated Social and Educational Survey (caste census) report from the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

One of the tallest leaders of the OBC bloc, accepting the report, strongly opposed by dominant castes in the State, is seen as a sign that he wants it counted as his legacy.

In a day of fast-paced developments, some of Congress legislators spoke publicly that the Chief Minister would resign on Thursday, while Mr. Siddaramaiah himself, in the first interaction with the media after his New Delhi visit, cryptically said, "I will speak tomorrow."

The Chief Minister is learnt to be under pressure from some of his followers to continue in the post, but his move is likely to be known during the key breakfast meeting.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah receiving the Social and Educational Survey Report in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

MORE REPORTS ON
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ED raids Pinarayi's premises, faces fury

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday searched the residences of former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Kannur and Thiruvananthapuram over an alleged pay-off scam involving his daughter T. Veena's IT firm and the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL).

The searches at 10 locations in Kerala and Bengaluru triggered protests across Kerala with a group of people vandalising vehicles ferrying ED officials after they left Mr. Vijayan's residence in Thiruvananthapuram. Five CPI(M) activists have been detained in connection with the violence and the police have named 12 other persons as accused for the attacks on the central agency officials.

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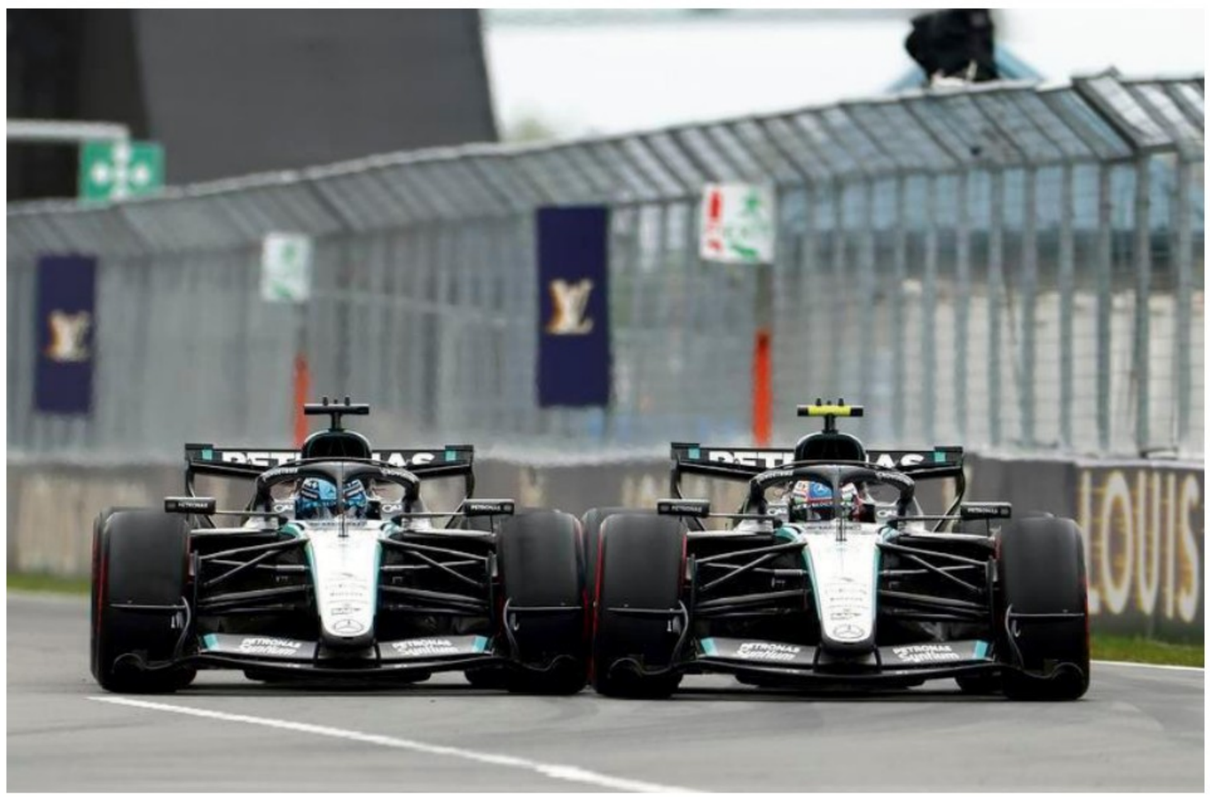
LIC/O1/2026-27/04/Eng

Chaos in Canada

Antonelli and Russell not giving each other an inch might make compelling viewing, but the Silver Arrows, like any other championship team, need to manage the egos of the title contenders



Natalia Hannah Rice

There is a particular tension that settles over a Formula 1 pit wall when two teammates are fighting each other for the lead of a Grand Prix. It is not panic. It is something quieter and more complicated: the recognition that whatever happens next, someone inside the team is going to be unhappy. Toto Wolff sat through 30 laps of that feeling at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve on Sunday, watching Kimi Antonelli and George Russell trade positions, radio messages and, at one point, Pirelli rubber, in a battle that was as gripping as anything seen at this circuit in recent seasons.

Russell arrived in Montreal needing a statement. Three consecutive victories for Antonelli in China, Japan and Miami had pushed him 20 points clear at the top of the championship, and the Briton, who had dominated the Sprint, snatched pole position by 0.068 seconds and looked magnificent all weekend, was not prepared to concede ground quietly. He led from the front. He defended hard. He did everything a number one driver is supposed to do in a race that matters.

It was not enough. On lap 30, his Mercedes lost all electrical power and stopped on track. Russell climbed out slowly, removing the steering wheel with the disbelief of a driver who knew the race had been slipping away from him long before the car stopped. Antonelli drove off into the Quebec afternoon to claim his fourth win from five starts and extend his championship lead to 43 points, the highest-gap recorded in the first five races since 2020.

What happened between those two moments revealed everything about Mercedes' future. The team now possesses two genuine title contenders, and no obvious way of controlling either.

A battle that couldn't be managed

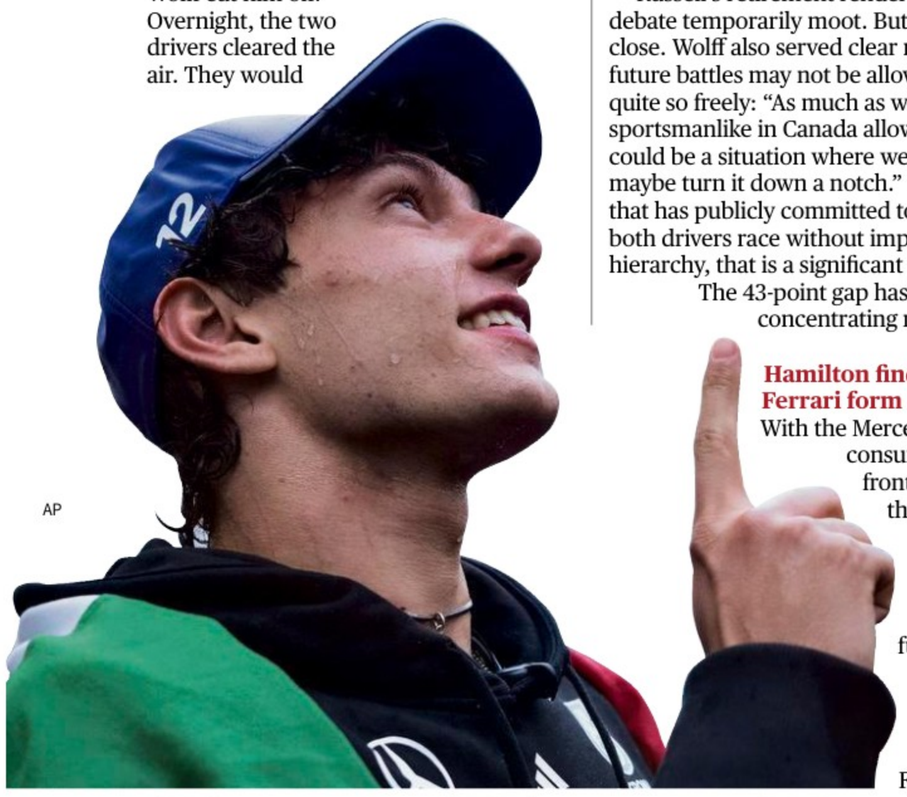
The tension between the two Mercedes drivers had been building across the entire weekend. Saturday's Sprint had already offered a preview: Russell's aggressive defence at Turn 1 sent Antonelli twice onto the grass and cost the Italian second place to Lando Norris. "That was very naughty! That should be a penalty," Antonelli protested at the time. The stewards disagreed. On the cooldown lap he pushed further: "If we need to race like this, then good to know!", before Wolff cut him off.

Overnight, the two drivers cleared the air. They would race freely, but smartly. It was different. It was also, in its way, more intense. The pair swapped the lead repeatedly during a breathless opening phase, making minor contact, running wide at the hairpin in gusty conditions, and refusing on every occasion to give the other a moment's comfort. The defining incident came on lap 24. Antonelli locked up approaching the hairpin, Russell came back ahead, and into the final chicane the two cars were side by side, paint rubbing off, before Antonelli was squeezed across the grass and rejoined in front. He was immediately instructed to surrender the position. "Why mate?!" he asked over the radio. "He pushed me off, and I was ahead. What's the point?" He gave it back anyway.

Race engineer Pete Bonington delivered the pit wall's verdict to Antonelli in clear terms: "So we've got to tidy up this racing. We need to keep it clean. So if we can't keep it tidy, then we'll have to stop you racing. Message to both cars." Marcus Dudley said something similar to Russell. Wolff watched on. "Every time we thought about saying, 'we have had enough for the moment'," he would say afterwards, "the next two laps were fast again."

Russell's retirement rendered the debate temporarily moot. But it did not close. Wolff also served clear notice that future battles may not be allowed to run quite so freely: "As much as we look very sportsmanlike in Canada allowing it, there could be a situation where we would maybe turn it down a notch." For a team that has publicly committed to letting both drivers race without imposed hierarchy, that is a significant statement.

The 43-point gap has a way of concentrating minds.


AP

Hamilton finds his Ferrari form

With the Mercedes drama consuming the front of the race, the most compelling secondary story came from further back. Lewis Hamilton, starting fifth in his Ferrari, delivered the finest afternoon of his 18 months at Maranello: patient, precise, and when the moment arrived, utterly decisive.

Verstappen had swept past Hamilton early in the race and built a gap of seven seconds once the field had cycled through its pit stops. What followed was a masterclass in controlled aggression. Lap by lap, Hamilton chipped away at the deficit, managing his medium tyres and calculating every deployment of battery power on a car that carries a known power deficit to Mercedes and Red Bull on the straights. With six laps remaining, he made his move, sweeping around the outside of Verstappen at Turn 1 in a pass that drew a roar from the Montreal grandstands and settled the battle for second.

Verstappen stayed within overtake range until the flag, applying relentless pressure, but Hamilton deployed the remaining energy with precision. "Even in overtake mode they still have more power in the straights," he said. "I was just having to do these calculations, trying to figure out how to maximise the amount of power on my battery bar each straight. Thank God I managed to pull it off." He called Sunday the "happiest day of my days at Ferrari so far", his second podium for Scuderia and by some distance his most complete performance.

For Verstappen, third place was Red Bull's first podium of the 2026 season, a small but meaningful sign that the team's difficult adaptation to the new regulations may slowly be stabilising. "In a weekend when it's not that easy to get things right, to be on the podium is extremely positive," he said. Charles Leclerc, who had called Saturday the worst weekend of his career, recovered quietly to finish fourth, giving Ferrari two drivers in the top four.

McLaren's strategic implosion

If the Mercedes drama was the race's defining story, McLaren's afternoon was its most painful subplot. The reigning constructors' champions arrived in Montreal as genuine contenders. They left without a single point, their weekend undone by a tyre decision that backfired almost immediately and then spiralled beyond recovery.

With light rain falling before the race and the track surface cold and greasy, the team sent both Norris and Piastri out on intermediate tyres. The logic was understandable. Intermediates offered quicker warm-up on a cold and greasy circuit. But two additional formation laps altered the conditions completely, and by the time the race finally began the track was already drying. Piastri had asked for slick tyres before the start. McLaren persisted anyway.

Both drivers pitted almost immediately for slick tyres and spent the rest of their afternoon firmly in damage limitation mode. Norris retired mid-race with a suspected gearbox failure. Piastri's afternoon deteriorated further when he collided with Alex Albon's Williams while attempting an overtake, was handed a ten-second penalty, and eventually finished eleventh, two laps down. Team principal Andrea Stella defended the original call but accepted the outcome: "In hindsight, we were penalised by the decision." The uncomfortable truth for McLaren is that this is not an isolated lapse. A pattern of strategic errors has accompanied their 2026 season, even as the car itself remains quick. Norris starts every weekend as the defending world champion and has yet to convert pace into points with the consistency Mercedes demands. That, rather than outright speed, remains the team's most pressing challenge going forward.

What the standings say

Five races in, Kimi Antonelli leads the Drivers' Championship on 131 points. George Russell is second on 88. Leclerc holds third on 75, Hamilton fourth on 72. Mercedes leads the Constructors' standings comfortably.

The season is still young, and Russell's retirement in Montreal accounts for much of a gap that does not fully reflect the closeness of their race pace. But championships are not decided on what might have been. Forty-three points is a very real number indeed. Wolff knows it. Russell knows it. Antonelli, for all the overnight reconciliations and press conference diplomacy, races like someone who knows it too.

Monaco is next. Mercedes will arrive on the Cote d'Azur still leading both championships, but carrying a problem every dominant Formula One team eventually encounters, two drivers convinced the future belongs to them. Montreal did not create the rivalry between Antonelli and Russell. It merely confirmed that neither man intends to yield.

THE GIST

- The tension between the two Mercedes drivers had been building across the entire weekend. The Sprint race had already offered a preview
- The other compelling story came from Hamilton, who started fifth and delivered the finest afternoon of his 18 months with the Prancing Horse
- For Verstappen, third place was Red Bull's first podium of the 2026 season, a small but meaningful sign that the team's difficult adaptation to the new regulations may slowly be stabilising

Rising fuel prices may force private schools to hike transport fees

Association says it is planning to increase the fee by 8% to 10% after holding meet with parents

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

Parents of school-going children, already burdened by rising fuel prices, say a hike in the school transport fee would strain their budgets further. FILE PHOTO

The continuous hike in fuel prices is likely to impact school fees in Bengaluru, with many private schools planning to raise transport fees by around 9% this academic year.

As of Wednesday, the petrol price stood at ₹110.93 per litre, while the diesel price stood at ₹98.80 per litre.

D. Shashikumar, general secretary of the Associated Management of English Medium Schools in Karnataka, said, "Every year, school fees rise by 5% to 10%, but transport fees have remained unchanged. We have been using overall fee collections to cover the maintenance and fuel costs of buses and vans. However, with the recent surge in fuel prices, we are now obligated to increase transport or school bus fees. While some schools collect transport charges annually, others do so on a monthly basis."

He added, "The transport fee depends on the location of the school and the distance from the students' homes to the school. It also varies depending on the type of school. At present, schools charge somewhere around ₹1,500 to ₹2,500 per month, which might increase to ₹3,000 to ₹3,500."

Lokesh Talikatte, president, Karnataka Recognised Unaided Private School Association (KRUPA), said, "Around 11,000 schools from across Karnataka, including CBSE and ICSE schools, have registered with our organisation. We are planning to increase the transport fee by 8% to 10%. This will be done after conducting a meeting with the parents. We have also started informing them about the increase in the transport fee. Some parents have already responded that it is an added financial burden on them. At present, schools under KRUPA are charging somewhere around ₹11,000 to ₹18,000, which will increase to around ₹22,000."

He said that KRUPA has received requests from teachers to increase their salaries due to the increase in fuel prices, but no decision has been taken yet. Meanwhile, parents of school-going children, already burdened by rising fuel prices, said a hike in the school transport fee would strain their budgets further. Raghava M, whose daughters study in a CBSE school in Vijayanagar, said, "At present, I pay ₹36,000 a year as transport fee for both my daughters. Even a ₹2,000 increase would be an added burden. The school fee itself is ₹75,000 annually. I work in a salon and earn about ₹2,000 a day. For middle-class families like ours, it is a significant strain."

Freeda M., another parent, said, "My son is in class 6, and his school is six kilometres away from home. As heavy vehicles ply on the road connecting Kengeri, I prefer sending him by school van rather than buying a cycle. If the transport fee increases, we may opt out next year and send him by BMTC buses. At present, we cannot opt out as we have already submitted the forms and paid the first instalment of the school fee."

Krishnappa, whose daughter is studying in a school 2.5 km away from home in Hulimavu, said the school had already increased the transport fee by ₹4,000 before the fuel price hike to factor in inflation. "We are already paying ₹40,000 per year for transport. I fear there will be one more hike with the continuous hikes in fuel prices," he said.

Truck operators urge Central, State govts. to cut toll, VAT as diesel prices soar; no freight hike for now

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Associations have requested the Centre to either suspend or reduce toll collection for at least six months to help the transport sector cope with the rising operational expenses. FILE PHOTO

Truck operators and transport contractors in Karnataka have urged both the Union and State governments to immediately intervene and ease the burden caused by the fourth consecutive hike in diesel prices, warning that continued increases would eventually impact the prices of essential commodities, retail goods, and overall supply chain costs across the State.

In a meeting convened by the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners and Agents' Association and the Retail Transport Contractors' Association in Bengaluru on Wednesday, transport operators decided to formally write to the governments seeking measures such as suspension or reduction of toll collection on national highways and a cut in Value Added Tax (VAT) on diesel.

The associations said the continuous increase in fuel prices had pushed truck operators and drivers into severe financial distress and could trigger a rise in freight charges if no relief measures were announced soon.

G.R. Shanmugappa, president of the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners and Agents' Association and the Retail Transport Contractors' Association, said that truck drivers and transport operators formed the backbone of the country's logistics and supply chain network, and the rising diesel prices were affecting the entire sector.

The continuous increase in fuel prices has pushed truck operators into financial distress, say associations

Freight charges

"We initially considered increasing freight charges by around 10%, but that would directly affect the common man through higher prices of essential goods. Instead of immediately passing on the burden to consumers, we have decided to seek intervention from both the State and Central governments," Mr. Shanmugappa said.

He said that the associations had requested the Centre to either suspend or substantially reduce toll collection for at least six months to help the transport sector cope with the rising operational expenses.

"Toll collections contribute only a portion of the government's overall revenue. If the Centre provides temporary relief on toll charges, truck operators can avoid increasing freight rates and manage the situation for some time," he said.

He further urged the Karnataka government to reduce VAT on diesel so that fuel prices could come down and provide relief to thousands of truck operators and drivers across the State.

Tough period

Ramappa K., a truck driver and owner of multiple trucks from Peenya, said that the transport sector was witnessing one of its toughest periods since the COVID-19 pandemic. "The diesel price hike has impacted us badly. We already suffered during demonetisation and the COVID-19 pandemic, and now we are facing another crisis-like situation. Earlier, a truck travelling from Bengaluru to Mumbai would take one or two days, depending on the load and route. Now, many trips are getting delayed because operators are struggling to arrange money for fuel in advance," he said.

He said several drivers were being forced to temporarily halt operations or park their trucks until payments from customers were cleared. "We are running trucks only when we receive money. Otherwise, many vehicles remain parked. That is the current situation in the transport sector," he added.

Another truck driver from Peenya, Shekhar M., said that the steep rise in diesel prices over the last 10 days had made it increasingly difficult for drivers and operators to earn a sustainable income.

"The amount we spend on diesel has increased sharply, but freight earnings have remained almost the same. Our operational costs are rising every day, while our income is reducing. We contribute substantial revenue to the government through fuel taxes, GST, permits, and toll payments, but there is no direct relief for us despite rising expenses," he said.

Garbage contractors warn of halt amid unpaid salaries and fuel hike

Contractors say they are 'no longer interested' in continuing as rising fuel prices, wage costs and mounting operational expenses are pushing them into severe losses. FILE PHOTO

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Amid repeated diesel and petrol price hikes, and the State government's recent notification increasing minimum wages by nearly 60%, garbage contractors, who have not been paid since January, warned that waste collection services across Bengaluru could be halted anytime soon.

Arguing that services have become financially unviable to continue, contractors said they are "no longer interested" in continuing, as rising fuel prices, wage costs and mounting operational expenses are pushing them into severe losses. They said that despite repeated representations with the authorities concerned, pending dues remain unpaid.

Contractors also claimed garbage collection in several parts of the city has already become irregular as workers are unwilling to continue without salaries and contractors are unable to sustain daily operations. "We cannot keep asking workers to continue when payments themselves are stuck," contractors said.

The Bangalore Mahanagara Swachathe Matthu Lorry Malikara Hagoo Guthigedarara Sangha said it would meet Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao this week. Association's general secretary S.N. Balasubramaniam alleged that Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) Chief Executive Officer Karee Gowda had consistently ignored contractors' concerns, forcing them to approach higher authorities directly. "We have been reduced to asking households for money just to survive," said Mahadev, a garbage collector. "Earlier, some residents used to help us, but now many think we are lying or using the money for alcohol. Not even a rupee is coming," he said, adding that several garbage collectors have already left the work and are now depending on collecting scrap.

Contractors pointed out that when payment rates for auto-tipper drivers and helpers were fixed in 2017-18, diesel prices were around ₹68 per litre. Since then, they said, diesel prices have risen by more than ₹26 per litre, while wages and maintenance costs have also sharply increased.

Contractors argued that while salaries have gone up by nearly 60%, their payments from the civic body remain unchanged and pending, making it impossible to continue services without running into heavy losses. Mr. Karee Gowda was unavailable for comment.

Start-up ties up with GBA to launch sanitary waste processing units

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The initiative is aimed at eliminating open burning and manual waste handling at sites. FILE PHOTO

Neo San, a Bengaluru-based clean-technology company, will deploy its smart waste-processing units, 'Neo-X', across institutions in Bengaluru, as part of a World Economic Forum (WEF)-led initiative in collaboration with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the Government of Karnataka.

The initiative named 'SafeDispose Bengaluru' will look at deploying these on-site sanitary and biomedical waste processing units in a phase-wise manner at government and private institutions across the city, including colleges, schools, primary health centres, women's hostels, government housing and other official buildings.

Solving urban problems

Neo San is a winner of the WEF UpLink Yes/Bengaluru Urban Innovation Challenge, which brought together the GBA and a coalition of private sector partners to encourage startups to develop innovative solutions to the city's civic and infrastructural challenges across sustainability, sanitation and public health.

Bengaluru is only the second city in the world, after San Francisco, to host this global initiative.

A grant provided to Neo San will fund the deployment of Neo-X units that safely treat sanitary and biomedical waste at the point of waste generation. The initiative aims to reach more than 5,000 women. The current pilot deployment is funded through United Way Bengaluru, one of the challenge partners. The larger expansion across Bengaluru's public infrastructure will be structured as a government-funded programme.

Waste burning

Open waste burning accounts for a significant share of Bengaluru's total PM2.5 emissions, making it the city's third-largest source of particulate pollution after transport and industry. Sanitation workers often handle this waste manually, without protection or protocol.

The initiative is aimed at eliminating open burning and manual waste handling at sites. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has reviewed and validated the technology for deployment across the city. Every Neo-X unit has real-time IoT monitoring of each cycle run and every kilo processed, thereby helping in creating robust data for urban planning.

"Waste infrastructure has a major gap that goes largely unaddressed. The third stream – sanitary, biomedical and contaminated reject waste – is generated daily, but lacks a certified on-site disposal route. The most common outcome is low-temperature open burning or dumping, as there is no economic incentive for material recovery," said Dhwaj Bagrecha, founder, Neo San.

"Our aim is to provide on-site treatment of this waste in a controlled manner, eliminating open burning and reducing overall process emissions by 98%," he added.

From June 4, public can view cheetahs at BBP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The four cheetahs, which were brought from South Africa as part of the wildlife exchange programme last month and housed at the BBP, will be available for public viewing from June 4.

"These cheetahs which arrived from South Africa on April 18 were kept in quarantine. Now the quarantine period of the four cheetahs has ended, and they will be available for public viewing from June 4,"Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said on Wednesday.

The Minister, who held a meeting with Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden Kumar Pushkar in this regard, said that these cheetahs will be released in a separate enclosure at the BBP.

These cheetahs were kept in quarantine to adapt to the local environment and weather conditions.

Student gig platform TimbuckDo signs MoU with Karnataka DCTE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The partnership aims to enable students to access verified part-time gigs, internships, project-based opportunities. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

TimbuckDo, a Bengaluru-based platform which connects students with verified part-time jobs, projects and gigs, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education (DCTE), Karnataka.

The partnership aims to enable students across government and technical colleges in the State to access verified part-time gigs, internships, project-based opportunities, and career development resources through the startup's platform.

Earning opportunities

Through the partnership, students will gain access to flexible earning opportunities, practical work exposure, financial literacy resources, and skill-building initiatives designed to prepare them for the evolving demands of the modern workforce and gig economy.

"Our collaboration with the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education, Government of Karnataka, is closely aligned with TimbuckDo's larger mission of helping students earn, learn and grow through meaningful opportunities. We believe this collaboration can create a scalable and impactful employability ecosystem for the youth of Karnataka," said Mythri Kumar, founder & CEO of TimbuckDo.

The Bengaluru-based platform, founded in 2022, combines KYC-verified gigs and internships with AI-enabled opportunity matching, curated lifestyle benefits, upskilling resources, and community-driven engagement initiatives. One of its flagship initiatives, the Intrapreneurship Campus Ambassador Programme, spans over 300 colleges and provides students with leadership, sales, and real-world project experience.

Whole body scans: why investors love them but doctors hate them

Elective whole-body MRI screening lacks evidence of mortality or quality-of-life benefit and may cause harm through overdiagnosis, unnecessary procedures, and psychological distress; no major medical society recommends it for the general public, but the commercial sector has only grown

Narayana Subramaniam

India now has a rapidly growing market for direct-to-consumer body scanning. Representative image. ACCURAY/UNSPLASH

When doctors express scepticism about whole-body scanning, a predictable counter-argument surfaces on social media within hours. Physicians, the theory goes, have a vested interest in keeping you undiagnosed. Healthy patients do not fill hospital beds. Early detection threatens the treatment economy and the doctor is the last person you should trust to tell you whether to scan. It is a compelling narrative.

It is also precisely backwards.

India now has a rapidly growing market for direct-to-consumer body scanning. Providers offer packages combining ultra-low-dose CT, full-body MRI, DEXA scans, blood biomarkers, and AI-generated health scores – all without a clinical referral, all marketed to urban professionals who want to know if something is wrong before a health calamity hits. The incentive structure is not to keep you healthy and out of the system. It is to bring you into a parallel one, charge you at the door, and generate findings that justify further investigation.

The metric these companies report is the number of abnormalities identified – not disease states confirmed, not findings that were clinically actionable, not conditions that required treatment. No company publishes outcome data showing their customers live longer. Yet all are growing rapidly.

The public conspiracy theory gets the incentives wrong in another way, too. When a scan returns an ambiguous finding – a nodule, a cyst, or a vascular irregularity, say – the patient does not stay home. They see specialists, undergo follow-up imaging, possibly biopsies, occasionally surgery. Every step generates clinical revenue. The scanning industry does not threaten the treatment economy; it feeds it.

What the evidence says

Earlier this month, two radiologists from leading American universities published an editorial in *JAMA* making the profession's collective unease plain. Elective whole-body MRI screening lacks evidence of mortality or quality-of-life benefit and may cause harm through overdiagnosis, unnecessary procedures, and psychological distress. No major medical society recommends it for the general population.

But despite a similar warning three years prior, the commercial sector has only grown. Roughly three in ten people who undergo these scans will require follow-ups, most of which will resolve in a finding that needs no treatment.

Patients who enter the scanner feeling well leave feeling like patients, anchored to findings of uncertain significance that may shadow them for years. In effect, the scan has not caught a disease. It has manufactured a worry. This is the paradox at the heart of the industry.

Medicine has always known that oversimplification provides only temporary relief. It does not resolve uncertainty. Anxiety rooted in the complexity of the body cannot be treated with a protocol that flattens that complexity into a single report.

Double-edged sword

The standard criticism of whole-body scanning is overdiagnosis, i.e. detecting conditions that would never have caused harm. But there is an opposite failure as well. Covering the entire body in a clinically acceptable scan time requires compromises. Sequences are chosen for breadth, not precision. A dedicated brain MRI with sequences tuned for cerebral arteries is a fundamentally different investigation from the neurological portion of a whole-body scan. One is optimised for what it is looking at. The other is optimised for coverage.

There is currently an active malpractice case in which a patient received a clean whole-body MRI report and suffered a deadly stroke months later. Independent neurologists have alleged that significant narrowing of a major cerebral artery was present but undocumented – i.e. it was treatable but the scan had missed it. The defendants deny the allegations. Whatever the case's legal outcome, it raises a question the industry has not answered: when a whole-body scan tells you nothing is wrong, what exactly has been excluded, and with what confidence?

Any test's usefulness depends almost entirely on whom it is applied to. A test that is 95% sensitive and 95% specific applied to a population of 10,000, where true disease prevalence is 1%, will generate roughly five false positives for every genuine finding. This is the pre-test probability: the likelihood that disease is present before any test is ordered, estimated from symptoms, history, and risk factors. In a healthy, self-selected population, that probability is lower for nearly everything the scanner is looking for. An industry built on scanning the well is, by definition, built on this gap.

Overdiagnosis trap

There is a third failure: finding conditions that are real, accurately identified, and still best left undiscovered. Not all diseases require treatment. Autopsy studies from Finland found occult papillary thyroid cancers in up to 36% of adults who died of entirely unrelated causes – tumours that would never have surfaced clinically. In South Korea, fee-for-service providers began offering thyroid ultrasound as a cheap add-on to government cancer screening visits, though it was never part of official policy.

Thyroid cancer diagnoses rose fifteen-fold between 1993 and 2011. Surgical rates followed. Yet mortality did not budge. Tens of thousands underwent thyroidectomies and acquired lifelong hypothyroidism for a disease that was never going to shorten their lives. The pattern recurs in prostate and kidney cancer. Detecting subclinical disease and treating it is not always medicine – sometimes it is the harm.

Where the evidence points

The U.S. National Lung Screening Trial showed that annual low-dose CT reduced lung cancer deaths by roughly 20% compared with chest X-ray in a tightly defined population of heavy smokers. The Dutch-Belgian NELSON trial found a similar benefit against no screening at all. Cardiac calcium scoring carries guideline endorsement from major cardiology societies for adults at intermediate cardiovascular risk, where it resolves genuine uncertainty about whether to start statin therapy.

What all these checks share is specificity: a well-defined disease, a well-defined population, and a protocol built to answer a particular clinical question.

Scanning everyone for everything simultaneously answers no question well. The doctors raising concerns are not protecting a treatment monopoly. They are asking for the same standard applied to any other medical intervention: evidence that the thing being sold actually helps the people buying it. That is not a conflict of interest. It's the job.

(Narayana Subramanian is Lead Consultant, Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology, Aster Hospitals, and Adjunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
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During an oxidation reaction, oxygen molecules must split up into atoms. Gold struggles to make this happen. JINGMING PAN/UNSPLASH

Why does gold never rust? Its surface may have the clue

Vasudevan Mukunth

Gold is one of the least reactive metals. It neither rusts like iron nor tarnishes like silver. In fact, this property has made gold the symbol of permanence worldwide. At the same time, chemists have used gold as a catalyst, including in reactions that involve oxygen. But if gold can accelerate oxidation reactions, why does it not react with oxygen to rust? In a new study in *Physical Review Letters*, Santu Biswas and Matthew Montemore of Tulane University in the U.S. have an answer: its surface.

When an oxidation reaction begins, oxygen molecules must split up into atoms. Gold struggles to make this happen. The researchers examined gold surfaces with two different arrangements of atoms, called Au(100) and Au(110). Normally, these surfaces are not flat because their outermost atoms rearrange themselves into more densely packed roughly hexagonal patterns in a process called surface reconstruction.

Chemists have used gold as a catalyst for reactions involving oxygen, yet it is unable to react with the gas to oxidise and rust

They do this because the new arrangement has lower surface energy, which is desirable. (In water, the surface molecules have more energy than in the bulk. This undesirable situation is the source of surface tension.) The researchers wanted to know if this process was responsible for gold's shyness with oxygen. They used density functional theory, a well-known computational method to simulate how atoms and electrons behave, comparing unreconstructed gold surfaces to reconstructed ones. They also estimated the amount of energy an oxygen molecule would need to split apart after being adsorbed to a gold surface. They found that before reconstruction, Au(100) and Au(110) both had a rectangular arrangement of atoms. On these surfaces, the oxygen molecule's dissociation energy was 0.65-0.74 electron-volt (eV, a small unit of energy suitable for atomic settings). But once the surface had reconstructed, the dissociation energy rose well beyond 1 eV.

Further, kinetic modelling suggested that unreconstructed Au(110) had a surface oxygen coverage of 0.4 monolayers within 10 seconds in ambient conditions while a reconstructed surface achieved a small fraction of that over the same period.

Even when the researchers changed the assumptions in the model, reconstruction still suppressed oxidation by roughly nine to 12 orders of magnitude. Mr. Biswas and Mr. Montemore traced these significant effects of reconstruction to the atoms' geometry. When an oxygen molecule breaks apart on a surface with a hexagonal grid of atoms, the gold atoms need to move significantly to accommodate the new bonding arrangements. But they can't move – not with what energy they have anyway – which keeps the oxygen molecule from dissociating. The reported finding could change scientists' understanding of why gold does not react with oxygen. The noble gases are called so because their atoms have a very stable configuration of electrons, and they are disinclined to form bonds with other atoms or molecules without receiving a lot of energy. In gold, the structural arrangement of its atoms in a solid also plays a role. According to Mr. Biswas and Mr. Montemore, their findings may point to a new strategy to design gold catalysts. If researchers can stabilise square or rectangular surface geometries, they may be able to make gold much more reactive in oxidation reactions.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Holiday spots for the really, really brave

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The world's longest unobstructed sea route that happens in a straight line goes from a point off the coast of Pakistan to the X Gulf in Arctic Russia, spanning around 32,000 km. A ship could theoretically sail it in a straight line (accounting for the earth's curvature) without making a single turn. Name X.

QUESTION 2

Name the point on land that is farthest from any ocean coastline. It falls in Xinjiang, China, near the city of Ürümqi, roughly 2,645 km from the nearest sea. In the most literal sense, it is the most landlocked place on the earth: the shortest distance from here to the sea entails a two-month walk.

QUESTION 3

_____ Island is frequently cited as the most remote island on the earth. A Norwegian territory in the South Atlantic, it sits roughly 1,700 km from Queen Maud Land in Antarctica and 2,500 km from the tip of South Africa. It has no permanent population. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

The Y Channel is the name of a horizontal layer in the ocean around 700-1,000 m deep where the combined effect of temperature and pressure creates a zone where sound has a minimum velocity. Sound can flow in this channel with almost no loss, theoretically capable of travelling thousands of kilometres. The U.S. Navy has used it covertly to track submarines. Name Y.

QUESTION 5

What is the name of the equator describing the belt of highest mean surface temperature on the earth's surface? It runs around 5-10° north of the geographic equator. This equator exists because the Northern Hemisphere has more landmass, which heats more intensely than oceans.

Visual: Name the imaginary island located at the spot marked 'X' on this map. It is the point at which the prime meridian and the equator intersect, and plays an important role in assessing the quality of geographic data. ERIC GABA (CC BY-SA)

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Answers to May 21 quiz:
1. Condition due to parasitic worms blocking lymphatic system – **Ans: Elephantiasis**
2. Disease inflicting facial wounds resembling the gnawing of a wolf – **Ans: Lupus**
3. Bone changes caused by Paget's disease, resembling a lion's features – **Ans: Leontiasis ossea**
4. Stubborn variant of alopecia areata causing patchy hair loss – **Ans: Ophiasis**
5. Condition when fingers and toes are highly flexible – **Ans: Arachnodactyly**

Visual: **Ichthyosis**

First contact:
K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Prem Nath Tiwari | Pankaj Gharde | Prem Raj P.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Helmetless riding: 4,617 cases booked in a day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) hit the field early on Wednesday and conducted a special drive against helmetless riding during peak hours, booking a total of 4,617 cases across the city.

Of the 4,617 cases, 3,084 pertained to riders not wearing helmets, while 1,533 cases involved pillion riders travelling without wearing helmets.

According to a BTP source, the drive was aimed at raising awareness among commuters that such violations are taken seriously.

The drive comes after the city witnessed a high number of helmetless riding cases.

In 2025, riding without a helmet and driving without a safety belt topped the list of traffic violations in Bengaluru.

Last year, the CCB arrested a few people inside the stadium for allegedly gambling while watching matches. FILE PHOTO

23 people arrested for indulging in betting in 2 months

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Since the start of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in March, the Bengaluru City Police have booked 17 betting-related cases and arrested 23 persons. Among the 23 arrested, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of Bengaluru City Police has taken into custody three persons, identified as Manjunatha, Prakash, and Anil Kumar, who were allegedly master bookies, sources said.

Officials have identified nine websites and mobile applications through which betting was being offered. These platforms were operating illegally and were widely advertised to attract users. "Once a user visited the app or website, they would find an option to buy 'chips' by depositing a stipulated amount. The 'chips' are a form of digital currency assigned a certain monetary value. Users or players could place bets only through these chips," an officer said.

The arrested accused allegedly managed these chips. They accepted deposits from users and issued chips corresponding to the amount deposited. After receiving the chips, users could log into their accounts and place bets on multiple aspects of the game. "We have identified such websites and recommended to concerned agencies that they be taken down," an investigator said.

This is not the first time the police have cracked down on such illegal applications. Last year, more than five similar applications were taken down for offering gambling services. In addition, the CCB had arrested a few people inside the stadium for allegedly gambling while watching matches. Usually, there is a buffer time of at least five to ten seconds between the actual play and what is broadcast on television applications. As a result, a person betting while seated inside the stadium would have an advantage over those watching the match on TV. Such attempts were thwarted last year, and those involved were arrested.

Three held for assaulting a pedestrian

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police arrested three persons for allegedly assaulting a pedestrian without provocation and later damaging private property in south Bengaluru's V.V. Puram on May 20.

The accused have been identified as Abhishek, 26, Puneeth, 27, and Umesh, 26, all friends and residents of south Bengaluru.

The incident unfolded around 4 a.m. on May 20 when the victim was passing by Magadi Venkatappa Road.

According to the police, the trio had partied earlier in the night and arrived at the location in an inebriated condition.

"Abhishek had an ongoing family dispute, which was the reason behind the incident. While under the influence of alcohol, the accused were creating a ruckus on the road and damaged a two-wheeler parked there," the officer said.

Further, the trio noticed a passerby and allegedly assaulted him with a stick.

CCTV footage of the incident was widely circulated on social media, attracting the attention of the police.

Based on the video, the V.V. Puram police registered a *suo motu* case and arrested the accused.

APPOINTMENT

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

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ATAL INCUBATION CENTER
– SRM INCUBATION FORUM (ASIF)

Name of the Post : Chief Executive Officer
Number of Post : 01 (Full-time / Contractual)
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Wednesday, June 03rd, 2026

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) – NOTICE

Reference No.: 798/YR-4/61 Dated: 27.05.2026

U.P. Housing and Development Board issues Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of Master Developer for Development of AI City -cum-Business Park at Vrindavan Yojana – IT City at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh under the UP Private Business Park Development Scheme, 2025 (International Competitive Bidding).

For Bid submission, please visit https://etender.up.nic.in

- IMPORTANT DATES -

Pre-Bid Meeting: 12 June 2026 | 11:00 AM (Meeting link and venue details will be intimated separately on the portal)

Last Date for Submission of Bids: 06 July 2026

• For any queries: Mail at cd12lko@upavp.com

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STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Company on the recommendations of the Audit Committee, at its meeting held on May 26, 2026 has approved the audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2026.

The Financial results, along with the Audit Report, have been uploaded on the Company's website and websites of BSE and NSE. The same is available at https://irctc.com/assets/images2/Integrated_Filing_(Financials)_quarter_year_ended_31st_March_2026.pdf and can be accessed by scanning the QR code.

For & on behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Sanjay Kumar Jain
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN: 09629741

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 26 May, 2026

Note: *The above intimation is in accordance with Regulation 33 read with Regulation 47 (1) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.*

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Karnataka's Model of Women Empowerment

'Gruha Lakshmi': A Beacon of Dignity in Women's Lives

Gruha Lakshmi

Guarantee Varthe

Bengaluru: "Because I am a transgender, society always looked at me differently. After enduring years of hardship and pain, it was the Karnataka Government's 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme that became my support. With the money I receive every month, I now run a fruit shop and live with dignity. Those who once mocked us now lovingly call me 'Akka'…" These are the heartfelt words of Sapna from Kalaburagi.

For lakhs of oppressed women like Sapna and crores of homemakers, the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme of the government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has brought a light of self-respect into their lives. Launched with the noble vision that when a woman becomes financially empowered, the entire family progresses, this ambitious scheme was inaugurated on August 30, 2023, in the cultural city of Mysuru. Today, the scheme has successfully completed three years and emerged as an economic strength for households across the state.

GUARANTEE HABBA
Stepping into the 4th year

Women's Economic Freedom is the Foundation of a Prosperous Society

The 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme is not merely a political promise; it is a symbol of dignity and respect for our mothers. When money circulates in the hands of women, the entire family prospers. The fact that funds have reached the accounts of more than 1.24 crore mothers over the last three years is proof of our government's sincerity.

- Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

The Biggest Revolution in the Country's History

The Gruha Lakshmi scheme is not only Karnataka's pride but also the largest direct cash transfer scheme implemented for women in the history of the country. Through technology, our government has successfully reached crores of mothers in a highly transparent manner and provided them with financial security in their lives.

- D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Monthly Honorarium, A New Dimension of Women's Empowerment

The scheme was launched with the firm resolve that the lady of the house should not have to depend on others even for her small personal needs. Eligible women are receiving ₹2,000 every month directly into their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). This is not merely free money, but the highest form of honorarium being given by the State Government in recognition of the sacrifices made by homemakers who work tirelessly for their families. As a result, lower and middle-class women in both rural and urban areas have gained a small but meaningful degree of financial independence.

The Economic Revolution of Three Years

Women receiving ₹24,000 annually have gained a total financial support over ₹70,000 the last three years. This financial assistance has transformed the economic condition of poor families. Mothers across the state are using this money with greater responsibility. Thousands of women have used this support for sheep and poultry farming, children's education, purchasing household electronic appliances, and starting home-based businesses, thereby moving towards both empowerment and self-reliance. Many women in rural areas are also pooling this money into small savings groups and self-help collectives.

A Global Record in Numbers

There is no other scheme in the country that has such a large number of women beneficiaries and provides direct cash transfers on this scale. More than 1.24 crore homemakers receive ₹2,000 every month through Direct Benefit Transfer, and so far, the government has allocated ₹69,783 crore for this scheme.

Supporting Women, Securing Families

A nation can achieve true progress only when it's women are economically empowered. The Gruha Lakshmi Scheme has provided much-needed relief to crores of families across the State amid the burden of price hikes. Women possess the strength to lead and sustain their families. The Government introduced this scheme with the belief that when a woman is empowered, the entire family becomes stronger.

- Lakshmi Hebbalkar,
Minister for Women and Child Development

I have neither a father nor a mother. We are three sisters struggling even for a meal, and I am also physically disabled. When I felt life had ended, it was the Gruha Lakshmi money that held my hand. With that support, I started a clothing business. Siddaramaiah Sir gave life to my dream of earning independently without stretching my hand before anyone.

Jayamma, Ballari

I started a country chicken farm by saving the money from the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme. Starting such a farm had been my dream for many years, but I lacked the capital then. Today, because of the guarantees, I am living independently without depending on anyone

Leelavathi, Shivamogga

It has been eight years since my husband passed away. Raising three daughters and managing a home without a man's support was like living through hell. Money would come only if I got labour work during the coffee season; otherwise, we had nothing for the rest of the year. Today, the Gruha Lakshmi money is our lifeline. Even imagining what would happen if this scheme stopped brings tears to my eyes.

Lakshmi, Chamarajanagar

I run a pickle business. But I had to walk kilometres every day for sales, and my legs would get exhausted. At such a time, the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme supported me. By saving the ₹2,000 I receive every month, I purchased my own scooter. It has helped me greatly in going door-to-door to sell pickles.

Zeenath, Mangaluru

We were living in extreme poverty, and managing the household was very difficult. The Government's 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme brought financial strength into my life. By saving the money that came every month without fail, I bought two goats and started rearing them. Their numbers have now increased and become a source of income for our family.

Devamma, Yadgir

When my son was just five months old, my husband left me and married someone else. Debt frightened me, and I often felt like ending my life. There was no food to eat, and our electricity connection was cut for not paying the bill. The days I cried in darkness were endless. Today, the Gruha Lakshmi money has removed the darkness from my life. With the help of a small petty shop gifted by an elderly woman, I use this money to buy supplies for the shop. Siddaramaiah has done a noble deed.

Renuka, Koppal

karnataka information

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Estimated growth in Nepal's economy in 2025-26

3.85 in per cent. Nepal's economy is expected to grow at 3.85% in 2025-26, despite uncertainty in the global economy and the ongoing West Asia conflict, according to the Economic Survey released on Wednesday. Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle released the first Economic Survey by the Balendra Shah government in Kathmandu. PTI

Share of allotted EV stations under MCD yet to become official

50 in per cent. More than half of the EV charging stations allotted under the MCD are yet to become operational due to delays in obtaining approvals from the Public Works Department, officials said on Wednesday. According to official data, a total of 1,047 EV charging stations have been allotted across the city. But, only over 460 stations have so far been made operational. PTI

Financial outlay for SARTHAK-PDS scheme for five years

25,530 in ₹ crore. The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the 'SARTHAK-PDS' scheme for five years. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs also cleared a revision in norms governing Central assistance to States and Union Territories for intra-State movement and handling of foodgrains. PTI

Percentage of domestic flights to be cut by Air India

22 in per cent. Air India has temporarily cut 22% of its domestic flights as the loss-making airline grapples with the impact of the high fuel prices, according to sources. The decision comes two weeks after the Tata Group-owned airline announced a 27% reduction in international flights amid airspace curbs, as well as costlier jet fuel. PTI

Projected increase in wheat production for 2025-26 crop year

2.29 in per cent. The country's wheat production is projected to rise by 2.29% to 120.65 million tonnes for the 2025-26 crop year (July-June), notwithstanding localised damage caused due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms, according to government data released on Wednesday. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The Ebola species with no vaccine

The Bundibugyo ebolavirus outbreak in Congo and Uganda has exposed gaps in vaccine preparedness, with no licensed vaccine yet for the rare species; funding constraints, weak commercial incentives, and limited research investment continue to hamper vaccine development for neglected tropical diseases

FULL CONTEXT

Vasudevan Mukunth

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Bundibugyo ebolavirus (BDBV) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda to be a public health emergency of international concern on May 17.

The outbreak exposes a critical gap in international vaccine preparedness. There is no licensed vaccine yet for the Bundibugyo species of the ebolavirus because the resources required to develop one have not been mustered and because of the specific economic realities of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

BSL-4 facilities

To study, develop, and test a vaccine, medical researchers need the virus itself or its genetic sequence to ensure the vaccine's antigens match the circulating strain. In mid-May, the National Institute of Biomedical Research in the Congo and the Central Public Health Laboratories in Uganda delivered this sequence.

Second, to work with a live ebolavirus, scientists need Biosafety Level (BSL) 4 facilities. These are research facilities with the highest level of biological containment, required when dealing with deadly viruses – like ebolavirus and Nipah virus – or viruses that are very easily transmitted or which have no known treatment.

BSL-4 facilities are strongly isolated, with monolithic walls, floors, and ceilings, tightly sealed pipes and wires, multiple sterile rooms with specialised airlocks, negative air pressure (so that a leak causes air to flow into the facility), dedicated ventilation systems, and redundant HEPA filters. All waste from the facility is first sterilised before being disposed of.

Personnel in a BSL-4 facility have to don positive-pressure suits (leak causes air to flow out) and pass through decontamination showers. They also have to undergo rigorous medical tests. There are just over a hundred BSL-4 facilities worldwide, including two in India.

Primate trials

To design the vaccine, researchers need to identify which proteins of the virus provoke the antibody responses in the human body. Then, they need to select a platform – the technology that will carry the antigen into the body and present it to the immune system. The options for ebolavirus include viral vectors such as rVSV or ChAdOx1, mRNA-based approaches, and protein subunits.

Finally, the vaccines may be tested in animal models, in particular non-human primates, as they are the gold standard to assess the safety and efficacy of a vaccine against a disease with a mortality rate of 25% to 90%.

Human clinical trials would be better but such an enterprise would be extraordinarily complicated during an ongoing outbreak.

Once a vaccine is ready, manufacturing it will require hundreds of millions of dollars in addition to development costs, including specialised facilities, cold storage and transport chains (at -80° to -60° C), quality control, regulatory approvals, and advance purchase commitments.

Then, at the very last stage of this long pipeline, healthcare workers and public health officials must detect an outbreak early and administer the vaccine to avail its benefits.

Once a vaccine is ready, manufacturing it will require hundreds of millions of dollars in addition to development costs, including specialised facilities, cold storage and transport chains, quality control, regulatory approvals, and advance purchase commitments. GETTY IMAGES

What 'neglect' means

The ebolavirus is not a single virus species but a genus with multiple species, including 'Zaire', 'Sudan', 'Bundibugyo', and 'Taï Forest'. If a person has become immune to one species, they are not expected to be sufficiently cross-protected against infection by another species. This is because the different species have different surface proteins, so each outbreak may require species-specific research.

Ebolavirus outbreaks are also sporadic and hard to predict as to their location – which is unlike influenza or COVID-19, which circulate continuously in populations. So by the time an ebolavirus vaccine reaches the third phase of a clinical trial, the outbreak may have already subsided, leaving fewer cases to track for the trial.

The commercial market for ebolavirus vaccines is small and concentrated in lower-income countries, which means the financial incentive for pharmaceutical companies to invest without substantial backing from governments and/or coalitions like Gavi and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) is minimal.

All of the same factors attend to most NTDs, and illustrate what the 'neglect' in their name entails. NTDs are almost always diseases of poor, rural, and politically marginalised populations in the world's tropical and subtropical areas. In fact, these people are neglected – and that's why their diseases are neglected as well.

Two declarations

Historically, funding for infectious diseases was dominated by just three: HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. The situation changed somewhat following the London Declaration in 2012 and the Kigali Declaration in 2022.

With the participation of the WHO, the World Bank, 13 pharmaceutical companies, and representatives from seven countries, the London Declaration committed to eliminate or control 10 NTDs by 2020 with more than $785 million for research and development. The Kigali Declaration, sponsored by Rwanda, aimed to reinvigorate commitments to eliminate the NTDs; at a June 23, 2022, event, the country reported a pledge of $1.5 billion by various governments, pharmaceutical companies, and NGOs.

However, R&D has often been patchy, compounded by weak healthcare delivery and poor (disease) surveillance. Governments have also often prioritised diseases afflicting patients in richer countries. But the worst is perhaps market failure, as affected populations have little purchasing power while developing a single vaccine these days costs more than a billion dollars. The vaccines also cannot be sold for much in countries most of whose populations live on two dollars a day.

Many NTDs are caused by eukaryotic parasites, i.e. worms and protozoa, which develop in multiple stages across multiple hosts, complicating researchers' efforts to identify a stable antigen for vaccines to target. The immune system also struggles to confer lasting protection against infections by these organisms, making them categorically harder to vaccinate against than, say, measles.

Local response

At this time, there are two licensed Ebolavirus vaccines – Ervebo and a combination of Zabdeno and Mvabea – but they are both for the 'Zaire' species. The Bundibugyo species is also much rarer, having caused only two outbreaks before the current one. As a result, research on it hasn't drawn significant investments.

Promising Bundibugyo vaccine candidates are currently in preclinical or early development, with the WHO and the Oxford Vaccine Group estimating at least six months more to manufacture enough doses for a small clinical trial.

Taken together, the local healthcare systems – already strained by conflict and climate change – are left with reliably detecting cases, isolating patients, contact-tracing, safe burial practices, and community engagement to manage the Bundibugyo ebolavirus outbreak.

Causes for hope

That said, in the meantime, the Road Map 2021-2030 of the WHO has specified eliminate-by targets for particular NTDs and has been pushing domestically led programmes that combine mass drug administration, vector control, sanitation, and surveillance.

In February this year, the African Union launched 'ACHIEVE Africa', a programme to build indigenous R&D for vaccine development for NTDs that western manufacturers have overlooked. Using the help of such programmes, the African Union plans to manufacture 60% of the continent's vaccine needs by 2040. Likewise, CEPI has increasingly funded work on pathogens that currently present weak commercial incentives.

Also earlier this year, India initiated phase I human clinical trials for an indigenous vaccine against Kyasanur forest disease, a regional NTD. Hubs established in South Africa and Senegal to manufacture mRNA vaccines for COVID-19 are being repurposed to produce experimental vaccines for NTDs, including leishmaniasis.

Brazil and Cuba have built state manufacturing capacity to address diseases that multinational firms have skipped (although this may no longer be a priority in Cuba, which has faced prolonged fuel and medicine shortages thanks to crippling U.S. embargoes).

But for now, the Bundibugyo ebolavirus outbreak continues to unfold against infrastructure and financing gaps and a broader system that struggles to respond to diseases of the poor and the peripheral.

THE GIST

- Scientists need BSL-4 facilities and non-human primate trials to safely study and test vaccines against deadly viruses like ebolavirus.
- Different ebolavirus species have different surface proteins, meaning immunity against one species may not sufficiently protect against another.
- Local healthcare systems are relying on early detection, isolation, contact-tracing, safe burial practices, and community engagement to manage the outbreak.

Fire breaks out in private hospital in city; 14 evacuated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Preliminary observations reveal that the blaze was triggered by a short circuit

A fire broke out at a private hospital in north Bengaluru's M.S. Palya early on Wednesday morning, triggering panic among patients.

Fourteen patients were evacuated unharmed from the hospital as the fire engulfed the building. The incident unfolded around 3 a.m. at a hospital on Singapura Road near M.S. Palya. A fire department official told *The Hindu* that a fire tender was rushed to the spotand the blaze was brought under control within a few hours.

According to police sources, around eight people were in the ICU and were evacuated using stretchers and wheelchairs. "The authorities contacted a few nearby hospitals and shifted ICU patients to those facilities," he said.

Preliminary observations by the Fire Department revealed that the blaze erupted after a short circuit triggered a fire in the wiring at the base of the hospital, which spread. "The attendants at the hospital noticed the fire and alerted others quickly, which led to the swift evacuation of patients," the police said.

Central Ministry orders inquiry into forest violations in Ramdurg

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Union Forest Ministry has ordered a detailed inquiry into forest violations in Ramdurg of Belagavi district. This includes unauthorised diversion of reserved forest land for non-forest purposes like deforestation, construction of buildings and installation of a statue. A team of officers, including some from the Union government and others from the State government, has carried out the first round of spot inspection.

The investigation focuses on forest norms violation involving the installation of a 72 ft tall Lord Shiva statue atop the Mullur Gudda Hills on the outskirts of Ramdurg town and the construction of other buildings in the vicinity.

Congress MLA Ashok Pattan unveiled the statue in 2018. The statue, said to be the tallest Shiva statue in the State after the one in Murdeshwar, attracts heavy footfall. Innumerable pilgrims and tourists visit it during festivals like Maha Shivaratri. Forest officials who inspected the sites have raised serious concern as the statue is located on reserved forest land and was constructed without obtaining prior statutory permissions.

The violations were exposed following two official site inspections by the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bengaluru, and a series of queries raised by the State government and the Ministry itself.

The Ministry has directed the State government to clarify the issue and submit action taken reports. Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said that he will study the reports before issuing suitable instructions to officers.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-I

Sub: Notification of period of contract for STBA at NSG-4 category station.
Ref: This office notification dated 21.04.2026.
Applications were invited for engagement of STBA at Hindupur (HUP), Whitefield (WFD), Mandya (MYA), Ramanagaram (RMGM) and Tumkur (TK) NSG-4 category stations vide notification dated 21.04.2026. The period of contract for the STBA at NSG-4 category stations will be upto 20.05.2027. The period of contract will be extended further based on the policy guidelines received from Railway Board.

For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/161/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 Bengaluru

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South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

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DOCUMENTS LOST

I, Hemavathi W/o Late C.M. Manjunath R/ at Channasandra Village, Kodihalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk do hereby solemnly state that, Original Registered Sale Deed bearing No.1276/1993-94 registered at Kanakapura Sub-Registrar Office Book No.1 pertaining to 1 acre 35 gunta land situated at Kanakapura Taluk, Kodihalli Hobli, Channasandra Village Sy. No.117 has been lost by me. In this regard I have raised a complaint with Kodihalli Police Station on 26.05.2026 and have obtained Lost Report No.2222920/2026. I further state that above given facts are true to my knowledge vide affidavit dated 27.05.2026 sworn to Notary.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pannagashayana. V S/o Venkataranga Iyengar R/at No.6, Ward No.3, Old Syndicate Bank Road, Newpete, Anekal, Bengaluru Urban District-562106 do hereby solemnly state that, in my Passport (No.A7571946) my father's name is wrongly mentioned as **RAMANUJA.** Infact the name **RAMANUJA** is of my grandfather. I further state that **VENKATARANGA IYENGAR** is my father's correct name. I further request the concerned authorities to carry out the necessary correction by incorporating my father's correct name **VENKATARANGA IYENGAR** in my Passport's Father Coloumn vide affidavit dated 26.05.2026 sworn to Notary.

CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI
C.T.S. No. 4821/26, 4821/27, R.S. No. 1005, Subhasha Nagara, Belagavi
Ph. : 0831-2405304, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_belgaum@yahoo.com,
Website : www.belgaumcity.mrc.gov.in

No. : C.C.B./R.D./Advt/E-Auction/2026-27 Date : 22-05-2026

E-PROCUREMENT PUBLICATION

E-Auction for **Collection of Fees for Hoardings - 28, LED Screen - 02, Bus Backdrop - 23, Gantry - 03 and Cantilever - 08 Advertisement Board in the Belagavi City Corporation North Zone Limit** through E-Procurement as below.

Work Name : Auction for Collection of fees for Hoardings - 28, LED Screen - 02, Bus Backdrop - 23, Gantry - 03 and Cantilever - 08 Advertisement Board in the Belagavi City Corporation North Zone Limit, Auction No. : DMA/2026-27/AUCTION/6805, Minimum E-Auction Bid Amount : Rs. 79,70,649/- (Excluding GST), E.M.D. Amount : Rs. 1,59,413/- Tender Period : 03 Years.

1) Last Date and Time For Submit the Query Date: 08-06-2026, 5.00 p.m., 2) Date and Time to Confirm Participation of Interest in Auction Date : 10-06-2026 at 5.00 p.m., 3) Auction Start Date and Time : 15-06-2026 at 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

For notification date and other details to be obtained by visiting Website address **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for participation in E-auction.

Sd/- Dy. Commissioner (Rev), City Corporation Belagavi. | **Sd/- Chief Account Officer, City Corporation Belagavi.** | **Sd/- Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi.**

DIPR/Belagavi/324/Manipal/2026-27

Andhra Pradesh Drones Corporation Pvt. Ltd.
(An Enterprise of the Government of Andhra Pradesh)
3rd Floor, NTR Administrative Block, Pandit Nehru Bus Station, NH-65, Vijayawada-520013, Andhra Pradesh.
Notice No.APDC/EOI/01/2026, Dt.25-05-2026

Andhra Pradesh Drones Corporation Pvt. Ltd. (APDC) invites proposals from Potential Applicants for Empanelment of Agencies for providing Drone-as-a-Service (DaaS) in Andhra Pradesh. Interested firms are requested to submit their proposals. The EOI document & other details can be downloaded from the website **(https://apdrones.ap.gov.in/#/home/Welcome)**

DIPR 5118PP/CL, Dt: 27/05/2026 Managing Director

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Yermarus Thermal Power Station)
(Joint venture of KPCL and BHEL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

No: KPCL/2026-27/PS/WORK_INDENT 4123/CALL-3 Dated: 23.05.2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

RPCL invites auction through GoK e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for **Hiring of scaffolding including erection and dismantling for Unit 1 & 2 of 800 MW boiler during annual overhauling upto 62.6 mtr elevation. EMD: Rs.1,51,800/-.** Contract Period: 12 months. Last date & time for receipt of tenders: 30.05.2026 upto 16:00 hrs. Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (BM|MM)**, RPCL/ YTPS, Yermarus - 584 134, Raichur Dist., Karnataka. Mobile: +91 94806 61445.

Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shimoga Division, Shimoga

No.EE/PWD/Smg/AE-1, AE-2, JE-1, JE-2/IFT-08/2026-27
Dtd:26-05-2026

Short Term Tender Notification -2 Cover system

Tender invited thro' E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class-2, 3 & 4 above Contractors For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080- 25501216/ 080-25501227)

Tender documents down loading & submission dates:29-05-2026 to 08-06-2026

Reserved For SC: 1. Sagara Taluk 1 Work (I.No:36337)
2. Soraba Taluk 2 Work (I.No:36318, 36333)
Reserved For ST: 1 Sagara Taluk 1 Work (I.No:36343)
Cat-1: 1. Hosanagara taluk 1 Work (I.No:36314)
Cat-2 (A) 1. Sagara taluk 1 Work (I.No:36339)
2. Shikaripura taluk 1 Work (I.No:36348)
All Contractors: **1**. Hosanagara Taluk 2 Work (I.No:36312, 36313) **2**. Sagara Taluk 3 Work (I.No:36344, 36336, 36316) **3.** Soraba Taluk 3 Work (I.No:36331, 36332, 36319)

Tender documents down loading & submission dates :Periods to complete the work is up to: 09 Months (Including Mansoon) If there any changes in published tenders it will be publishing in E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in Website only

Sd/-EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/122/05/293

ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ ನಿ.,
ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ-587103
BAGALKOT DISTRICT CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,
BAGALKOT-587103

Reg.No.RCS No.CRD/32208/Dtd.1-2-2003
: General: 236443,235573
Fax : 08354-235571
e-mail:ho@bagalkotdccbank.com

No/Adm/P&D/708 /2026 Date: 21.05.2026

TO,
The Chairman/Managing Director
JNS Global Business Pvt Ltd, Regd Office:Plot No 105, Cotton Market APMC Yard
Tq: Gokak Dist:Belgavi - 591307.

TO,
1) Shri Vikram Shiddappa Angadi
207/20 Near Laxmi Temple Extension Area Post Quarters Road, Tq: Gokak Dist:Belgavi
2) Mrs Sunita Vikram Angadi
207/20 Near Laxmi Temple Extension Area Post Quarters Road, Tq: Gokak Dist:Belgavi
3) Shri Santosh Subhas Parmar
House No 3704 Guruvar Peth, Tq: Gokak Dist:Belgavi
4) Shri Nagaraj Yamanappa Bagayi, A/P Lolasur Tq: Gokak Dist:Belgavi -591307
5) Shri Pulavaram Sathyanarayana Anoop
Pattalamma temple street Basavanagudi, Near SBI Bank Bangalore - 560004
6) Shri Arun Raghunath Digre
H.No.2450 Praghati Nagar Nippani Rural, Nippani Chikkodi -591237 Dist Belagavi

Sir,

DEMAND NOTICE

SUB: NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCATION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

At the request made by you our The Bagalkote District Central co-operative Bank Ltd at Jamkandi Road Mudhol Branch . The Loan Sanctioned under leadership of The Bagalkote DCC Bank Ltd., Bagalkote and Proceeding the SARFEASI action against M/S JNS Global Business Pvt Ltd, Regd Office: Plot No 105, Cotton Market APMC Yard Tq: Gokak Dist:Belgavi - 591307.

1. The Bank has granted various credit facilities are stated Schedule "A" You have availed the financial assistance with an undertaking for repayment of the said financial assistance in terms of the said agreements/documents.
2. You have also executed a Mortgage Deed along with movable and immovable properties as shown in Schedule-"B" creating security interest in favour of the Bank.
3. As you have defaulted in repayment of your dues to the Bank, we have classified your account as Non-Performing Asset with effect from 31/07/2025 accordance with the direction/guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India/NABARD
4. For the reasons stated above, we hereby give you notice under Section 13(2) of the above noted Act and call upon you to discharge in full your liabilities by paying to the Bank The Bagalkot District Central co-operative Bank Ltd at Jamkandi Road Mudhol Branch a sum of Rs. 2275.00 Lakhs (Twenty Two Crores Seventy Five Lakhs) towards interest as on 30.04.2026, thus a total sum of Rs. 313.09 lakhs (Rs. Three Crores Thirteen Lakhs Nine Thousand) and Total 2588.09 Lakhs (Twenty Five Crores Eighty Eight Lakhs Nine Thousand) and You are also liable to pay future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost and charges etc., with monthly compounding within a period of 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which please note that we will entirely at your risks as to costs and consequences exercise the powers vested with the Bank under Section 13 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002, against the Schedule-B. secured assets
5. The amounts realized from exercising the power mentioned above, will firstly be applied in payment of all costs, charges and expenses which are incurred by us and/or any expenses incidental thereto, and secondly applied in discharge of the Bank's dues as mentioned above with contractual interest from the date of the notice till the date of actual realization and the residue of the money, if any, after the Bank's entire dues (including under any of your other dues to the Bank whether as borrower or guarantor) are fully recovered, shall be paid to you/mortgagor.
6. If the said dues are not fully recovered from the proceeds realized in the course of exercise of the said powers against the secured assets, we reserve our right to proceed against you and your other assets, including by filing legal/recovery actions before Debts Recovery Tribunal/courts, of Competent jurisdiction for recovery of the balance amount due along with all costs etc. Incidental thereto from you.
7. Please take note that as per Sub-Section (13) of the aforesaid Act, after receipt of this notice, you are restrained from transferring or creating any encumbrances on the aforesaid secured assets whether by way of sale, lease,license,gift,mortgage or otherwise any of the secured assets referred to in this notice.
8. The undersigned is a duly authorized officer of the Bank to issue this notice and exercise powers under Section 13 of the aforesaid Act.
9. Needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank

SCHEDULE "A"
The Loan Outstanding amount of
The Bagalkot District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd
Name of the Borrower: JNS Global Business Pvt Ltd, Regd Office:Plot No 105, Cotton Market APMC Yard Tq: Gokak Dist:Belgavi - 591307.
(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl No	Loan Name	Account Number	Loan Sanction	O/S Amount	Int Due	Total
1	TERM LOAN	895303010703917	1475.00	1475.00	207.99	1682.99
2	CASH CREDIT	895130020676961	800.00	800.00	105.10	905.10
	Total		2275.00	2275.00	313.09	2588.09

Total 2588.09 Lakhs (Twenty Five Crores Eighty Eight Lakhs Nine Thousand) + Interest from 30.04.2026 + expenses cost charges etc.,

SCHEDULE "B"
(MOVEABLE AND IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY)
The Property Details of The Bagalkot District Central co-operative Bank Ltd
Name of the Borrower: JNS Global Business Pvt Ltd, Regd Office:Plot No 105, Cotton Market APMC Yard Tq: Gokak Dist:Belgavi - 591307.
Below Mentioned Survey Numbers Mortgaged to The Bagalkote District Central co-operative Bank Ltd

Sl. No	Property Description	Property No	Acre-Gunta Square Meter	Chakabandi (Boundaries)
1	Industrial Land MUGHALKOD	Old Property No -630 New Property No - 150100600900120071	6442.52 Sq Mtr	East-Land R.No. 33 West -9 Meter Road North-Parking and Garden South - Land R.No-34/4A, 34/4B
2	Industrial Land MUGHALKOD	Old Property No -639 New Property No - 150100600900120293	5984.55 Sq Mtr	East-Land R.No. 33 West -12 Meter Road North - Land R.No.33/4 South - 9 Meter Road
3	Industrial Land MUGHALKOD	Survey No - 35/17	1Acre 39 Gunta	East-Land Yamanappa Pujari West- Land Paramanand Metri North - Land Shrishail Gundappagol South - Panchayat Road
4	Land Malali	Survey No - 54/3	0Acre 06 Gunta	East-Land Kallappa Jotennavar West- Land Shivakumar Dangi North - Panchayat Road South - Own Property
5	Land Malali	Survey No - 54/4	0Acre 07 Gunta	East-Land Kallappa Jotennavar West- Land Shivakumar Dangi North - Panchayat Road South - Own Property
6	Industrial Open Land for agro based Industries BASARAGI K.M	Survey No - 46*/1	4Acre 30 Gunta	East-R.No 46/2, West- R.No 46/1 North - R.No.42 & 43, South - Road
7	Industrial Open Land for agro based Industries BASARAGI K.M	Survey No - 46*/2	2Acre 14 Gunta	East-R.No 46/3, West- R.No 46/1 North - R.No.45, South - Road

The Properties Mortgaged Details

Sl.No	Name of the Document	Nature Of Security	Document No	Date of Execution
1	Memorandum of Deposit of Title Deed	Mortgaged	MUR-1-00515-2022-23	31-05-2022
2	Memorandum of Deposit of Title Deed	Mortgaged	MDH-1-02303-2024-25	27-05-2024
3	Memorandum of Deposit of Title Deed	Mortgaged	MDH-1-02304-2024-25	27-05-2024

Name of the Borrower: JNS Global Business Pvt Ltd, Regd Office:Plot No 105, Cotton Market APMC Yard Tq: Gokak Dist:Belgavi - 591307

Date : 21.05.2026
Place : Bagalkote

For The Bagalkote D.C.C Bank Ltd.
Authorized Officer

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)
OPTCL Lifeline of Odisha
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CPC-25/2026-27	Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of work towards " Construction of 400kV Indravati- Therubali Double Circuit Transmission Line from proposed 600MW, PSP Sub-Station at Mukhiguda to proposed 400/220kV GSS Therubali with Twin ACSR Moose Conductor and towers suitable for Quad Moose configuration (Line Length-93.25 Kms Approx.) in the State of Odisha on EPC Contract Basis in e-tendering mode only. **Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 29.06.2026 upto 12:45 PM.**	**Rs. 302,43,46,922.00**

Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** and **www.optcl.co.in**.
HIPR-19/2026-27

4001/113/2627 /optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha OIPR-4001/4011/1/26-27/0014

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया **Union Bank of India**
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

Regional Office : 2254, "Kousalya", 3rd Floor, South Wing, Vinoba Road, Mysore-570 005

DEMAND NOTICE

Channapatna Branch, No. 2911/4-10, B M Road, Kuvempunagar,
Channapatna, Ramanagara - 562160, Mail Id: ubin0910821@unionbankofindia.bank.in

Borrower/ Mortgagor : 1. Mr. Ningegowda Alias Raju, Ujjanahalli (Peehalli) Village, Singarajapura, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562138, **Also at :** 1st Main, 1st Cross, 470 Mahadeshwar Nagara Housing Board, Channapatna, Ramanagara – 562160
Co-Obligant/ Mortgagor /Guarantor : 2) Ms. Rathnamma, W/o. Ningegowda Alias Raju, Ujjanahalli (Peehalli) Village, Singarajapura, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara – 562138, **Also At :** 1st Main, 1st Cross, 470 Mahadeshwar Nagara Housing Board, Channapatna, Ramanagara – 562160
Sub : Notice under Sec. 13 (2) read with Sec. 13 (3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by **Channapatna Branch**

Loan A/c No.	Amount Due. Rs:	Date of NPA	Demand Notice Date	Description of the Mortgaged Property
523706680000033	Rs. 13,82,226-00 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Six Only)	31-03-2026	12-05-2026	All The Part And Parcel Of Residential Site And Building In The Name Of **Mr. Ningegowda & Rathnamma.** Bearing Muncipal Site No LIG Site No 470, LIG Extension KHB S & S, CMC, Mahadeshwaranagara Channapatana Town, Ramanagara Dist. **Measuring East-west: 9 Meters, North-South: 12 Meters. Total 108 Square meters. Bounded By East:** Site No 471, **West:** Site No 469, **North:** 6.00 Meters Road, **South:** Site No 461.

Notice issued to you u/s 13(2) of The Securitisation& Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by branch/me, the Authorised Officer, was sent to you calling upon to repay the dues in your loan account/s with us at your last known address could not be served. Therefore, the contents of the said demand notice are being published in this newspaper. The credit facilities/loan facilities availed by you have been classified as NPA. You have executed loan documents while availing the facilities and created security interest in favour of the Bank. The details the credit Facilities and secured assets are as under: Credit facilities availed with outstanding amount. Therefore, you, as borrower, co-borrower and as guarantor in terms of the aforesaid notice have been called upon to pay the aforesaid said amount, together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of this publication. That on your failure to comply therewith we, the secured creditor, shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. In terms of Section 13(13) of the Act you shall not transfer the secured assets aforesaid from the date of receipt of the notice without Bank's prior consent. Please take note of the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place : Mysuru
Date : 28-05-2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Group,
ISRO Head Quarters, Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road, Bengaluru-560094 Phone: 080-2217 2041/2476/5641/5660
e-Mail: ts.cmghq@isro.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-Tendering for the following work:

Title of work	**Refurbishment of Board Room at New Auditorium Building at Antarikash Bhavan, ISRO HQ, Bengaluru-Civil, Electrical and AC Works.**
e-Tender Notice No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/C/03/P/ AB/2026-27 Dated: 27.05.2026**
Estimated cost put to tender	**₹88.17 Lakhs**
Period of completion in month	**Four (04) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From: 18:10 hrs on 27.05.2026 To: 23:59 hrs on 08.06.2026**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 15:30 hrs on 10.06.2026**
Due date and time of opening tenders (Techno-commercial Bid)	**16:00 hrs on 10.06.2026**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹1,76,340/- [Valid for 180 days]**

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and Tender documents may be downloaded from e-tendering website: **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head CMD, ISRO HQ

CACHE

Bird-glass collisions are severely undercounted partly because collisions are hard to observe. GETTY IMAGES

Ordinary homes and offices are becoming death traps for birds

Bird-glass collisions are emerging as an undercounted threat in India, with birds flying into reflective or transparent glass panels in homes, schools, offices and apartment buildings; experts say many small and migratory birds are injured or killed by these human-made structures

Aditya Ansh

In 2008, architect and avid birdwatcher Peeyush Sekhsaria was having breakfast at a traditional homestay in Coorg when he heard a loud thud. Sekhsaria tracked down the cause of the noise to find an emerald dove lying still on the floor after flying into a glass panel.

Bird-glass collisions, also called bird-window strikes, happen because birds are not able to notice clear or slightly reflective glass.

India has no national estimate for bird-glass collisions, nor is there a coordinated monitoring system to track how many birds die or are injured after colliding with windows.

In one October 2025 study from the Nilgiris, researchers from around India documented 35 bird-glass collision incidents in two locations within a year. In Bengaluru, the Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC) has recorded more than 500 birds injured in collisions over the last three years.

"At Bengaluru, most of the major threats bringing birds to our rescue centre are human-made: manja is still the worst, but collisions are frequent," ARRC executive director Jayanthi Kallam said.

Beyond skyscrapers

A major concern researchers and birdwatchers have is the nature of buildings involved in such accidents. Contrary to common perception, most collisions do not occur at skyscrapers but at everyday structures like homes, schools, office complexes, and apartment balconies.

"Glass collisions aren't a skyscraper problem but they are a glass problem," Dr. Kallam said. "People often imagine this as something that happens only at IT parks, corporate campuses or large glass buildings. But our cases come from ordinary urban spaces like homes, cafe fronts, schools, resorts and two- or three-storey buildings."

Reflective surfaces mirror sky, foliage, and open space, creating what ecologists call a visual illusion. Transparent panes can also appear as clear flight paths. To birds moving quickly through urban vegetation, the barrier often remains invisible.

According to Mr. Sekhsaria, "The data in the U.S. shows us that 50% of bird deaths actually happen up to third-floor buildings and a lot of birds are active within a certain height range from the ground up to the canopy height."

In Indian cities where residential towers and office buildings are often located alongside fragmented green spaces, the risk increases.

Glass near trees, balconies, and gardens can reflect the vegetation nearby, confusing birds.

Vulnerable migrating birds

Certain bird species are especially vulnerable. Between September and January, when birds migrate, ARRC said it often finds Indian pittas (*Pitta brachyura*) dazed or injured near buildings.

White-cheeked barbets (*Psilopogon viridis*) seem vulnerable during the March-April breeding season.

"At the moment, we are seeing many white-cheeked barbets, mostly newly fledged young birds that are inexperienced fliers, easily misled by reflections of foliage on glass," Dr. Kallam said.

Asian koels (*Eudanamys scolopaceus*) also appear susceptible during breeding, possibly because of their higher territorial movement, which can bring them closer to reflective surfaces.

Pune-based birdwatcher Parth Barhate began noticing patterns similar to this after moving from Jalgaon: "Small bird species such as sparrows, robins, sunbirds and babblers are particularly vulnerable."

According to experts at ARRC, bird-glass collisions are severely undercounted partly because collisions are hard to observe. Smaller birds may move away after the impact and die elsewhere, while some others are quickly removed by scavengers. The rescue centres eventually receive only a subset of injured or dead birds.

"When we looked more closely at building collision cases, nearly 70-80% involved glass in some form, be it windows, sliding doors, panels, reflective glass or facades," Dr. Kallam said.

"And this is almost certainly an undercount. Small birds are easy to miss, many collisions are never witnessed and if a bird moves away from the impact site, identifying glass as the cause also becomes harder."

Citizen science

In recent years, citizen-science platforms and informal reporting networks have begun filling some data gaps. Birdwatchers now upload collision records to platforms like iNaturalist. Rescue organisations also compile local observations.

Mr. Sekhsaria and his collaborators have analysed several hundred such records collected from online birding communities and wildlife rescue groups.

"We have about 110 species of birds that we have recorded having bird-window collisions," he said. "For a country like India, a thousand data points is nothing, but we actually have some data points to begin with."

"One common thing would be a head injury to birds," Dr. Kallam said. "Post-concussion, they will be dull and dazed." Some injuries are also difficult to spot by seeing: "Sometimes there could be internal organs bleeding. Those will be very difficult to diagnose," she added.

According to her, many birds appear to recover briefly after impact, leading residents to release them too early. She said she believes substantial underreporting persists.

"Particularly in the small birds, which are difficult to notice, if it is impacted and goes some distance and falls in a wooded area, those are difficult for anybody to notice."

Bird-safe cities

Researchers said the absence of regulations does not mean mitigation is impossible. Experts have pointed to many simple, inexpensive interventions. For example, patterns, decals or strips pasted on the outward-facing parts of windows can help birds identify glass surfaces as barriers.

"The first step is simple: make glass visible to birds," Dr. Kallam said.

Awareness and understanding of bird-glass collisions also suffer from their absence in mainstream urban ecological discussions in the country. Conservation debates continue to focus on habitat destruction, air pollution, and infrastructure expansion.

One 2023 petition before the National Green Tribunal filed by a resident in Bengaluru had asked for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to draft bird-safe building guidelines. As of May 2026, no public update or draft framework has been released.

Mr. Sekhsaria said systematic citizen-science reporting may eventually shift that understanding.

(Aditya Ansh is an independent media writer based in New Delhi, India)

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

As the aftershocks of the war in Iran continue to affect fossil fuel supplies, here is a quiz on renewable energy technologies

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Now powering most EVs (particularly Chinese ones), LFP batteries owe much of their commercial viability to the polyanion cathode framework pioneered in the late 1980s by Nobel laureate John B. Goodenough and his associate, who was born in a small village in Tamil Nadu, and then became a leading figure in battery research. Name this scientist.

QUESTION 2

From one Goodenough associate to another: while the scientist in Q1 laid the conceptual groundwork, the actual 1997 paper announcing $LiFePO_4$ as a cathode was led by a scientist from Kalahandi, Odisha. He is today a cell engineer at Apple Inc., helping power billions of devices worldwide. Name him.

QUESTION 3

Named after a Russian mineralogist and first found in the Urals in 1839, identify this crystal structure revolutionising photovoltaics — its tandem solar cells have recently crossed nearly 35% efficiency, beating silicon.

QUESTION 4

In 1987, a water-well worker in Bourakébougou, Mali, accidentally set off a blue flame that burned for weeks in a borewell. Decades later, the gas was found to be 98% pure. Name this naturally mined, newest "colour" of hydrogen.

QUESTION 5

Back to LFP batteries; name the Fujian-born physicist who founded CATL in 2011, today the world's largest battery maker and LFP producer.

Visual Question:
Name this Victorian mansion in Northumberland, the world's first home lit by hydroelectricity in 1878, and its industrialist owner.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Nehru served as the Prime Minister for how many years? **Ans: 16**
2. Nehru wrote many books. One of them traces the journey of India from ancient history to the final years of the British Raj. **Ans: The Discovery of India**
3. When did Nehru say this: "At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom." **Ans: On August 15, 1947, Tryst with Destiny**
4. Who, in a letter, said, "Universally you are recognised as one of the most powerful influences for peace and conciliation in the world..."? **Ans: Dwight D. Eisenhower**
5. In 1955, then British PM Winston Churchill called Nehru with a title? **Ans: The Light of Asia**
6. Nehru wrote which article of the Constitution under the Directive Principles of State Policy? **Ans: Article 44**
7. Which is the conference that is being held here in the 1955 image? **Ans: Bandung Conference**
Early Birds: Lalchand Bhutani | Tito Shiladitya | Piyali Tuli | Parimal Das | Sudhir Thapa

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"What is the difference between "ingenious" and "ingenuous"? (P. Shivaji, Nidamangalam, TN)
Let's start with the pronunciation first. Some people pronounce "ingenious" as a word having four syllables, while others reduce it to three. The first syllable is like the word "in", and the "e" in the second is pronounced like the "ee" in words like "fee", "bee", and "knee". The "g" is like the "j" in "jam", and "jump". The "i" in the third syllable is like the "i" in "bit", "hit", and "sit", while the final "ou" is like the "a" in "China", "about", and "amount". The main stress is on the second syllable "gen". Some people pronounce the "i" in the third syllable like the "y" in "yet", "yes", and "young". When you say you have come up with an ingenious plan or idea, it means that you have found a very clever way of solving a rather complex problem.

Not even the police could figure out the crook's ingenious escape.

The first syllable of "ingenuous" is like the word "in". The "g" in the second syllable is like the "g" in "ingenious", while the "e" that follows is like the "e" in words like "set", "pet", and "bet". The "u" in the third syllable is like the word "you", and the final "ou" is like the "a" in "China". In both words, finally "s" is like the "s" in "sit", "sat", and "sip". The main stress once again is on the second syllable. When you describe someone as being "ingenuous", you mean that he is very innocent; someone who is very trusting and incapable of deceiving anyone. Not the kind of word you would normally associate with a politician!

She is an ingenuous young woman who wants to help those around her.

"What is the meaning of a rhetorical question"? (P. Senthil, Vazhavallan-Keezhur, TN)
A rhetorical question is one where you do not expect your listener to answer your question. You merely expect him to agree with what you are saying. His answer is taken for granted. For example, when you ask someone, "It's a nice day, isn't it?", you do not really expect the listener to say, "Yes, it is." You take his agreement for granted. Similarly, when you show the picture of someone and say, "She is beautiful, isn't she?", you do not expect your listener to say, "No, she isn't." The listener's agreement is taken for granted.

"What is the meaning of the expression "chip off the old block"? (P. Sundaramurthy, Chennai)
When the son resembles his father, then you say that he is "a chip off the old block". Of course, the expression doesn't limit itself to merely looks alone. If the individual behaves like his parent, then you could say that he is a chip off the old block. Many people consider this expression rather old-fashioned.

The "block" here refers to a block of wood and the "chip" is a small piece which has been broken off the block of wood. Remember that it is "off" and not "of".

"Do you say "an hotel" or "a hotel"? (K. Parvathi, Hyderabad)
The article that you use before the word "hotel" depends on how you pronounce the word. If you are one of those who tend to drop the "h" in "hotel", then you have to say "an otel". If, on the other hand, you pronounce the "h", then you have to say "a hotel". Both pronunciations are acceptable.
Published in The Hindu on October 10, 2000

Word of the day

Voluble:
marked by a ready flow of speech

Synonyms: talkative, fluent, expressive

Usage: *The voluble child kept asking questions all day.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/voluble

International Phonetic Alphabet: /vɒljəbəl/

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*T&C APPLY

CBSE three-language rule worries foreign language teachers, students

According to the circular issued on May 15, students opting for a foreign language may do so only as the third language

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

While teachers fear job losses, students who opted for French, German, and Spanish are being forced to start learning a new Indian language from scratch. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) three-language rule for class 9 students, beginning July 1, has become a cause of worry for foreign language teachers and students.

While teachers fear job losses – with some already affected – students who opted for French, German, and Spanish are being forced to start learning a new Indian language from scratch. The primary rule mandates that at least two of the three languages must be native Indian languages, with English serving as the default medium of instruction (R1) in most English-medium schools.

According to the circular issued on May 15, students opting for a foreign language may do so only as the third language, after studying two native Indian languages, or as an additional fourth language.

Deepa Shridhar, director, Sri Kumaran Children's Home Educational Council, explained, "If there is no opportunity to learn a foreign language as the third language, it is an expensive affair for us to retain the teachers who teach French and German. Unfortunately, with this new policy in place, we had to let these teachers go. Students studying German have a lot of options when they are in class 10. Their parents have requested that we provide them with some extra classes after school hours or during the weekends."

On the other hand, some schools are working on a strategy to retain the foreign language teachers for other roles or even to teach the languages during weekends, similar to courses like AI or Computer Science.

Shefali Tyagi, principal, National Public School, HSR Layout, said, "In our school, teachers teaching foreign languages will not be laid off. We are planning to retain them to teach foreign languages during weekends as extracurricular courses beyond the usual school curriculum. In addition to this, some of these teachers also teach other subjects."

Manju Balasubramanyam, Delhi Public School, Bengaluru North, said, "We do have plans to retain our foreign language teaching faculty because a fourth language will still be considered for board exams. In DPS, foreign language is taught in the hobby section for classes 6 to 8. Since the New Education Policy (NEP) in 2020, we saw this coming, and from then, we offered French and German as hobby courses and not as a second language for students in classes 6 to 8."

The discussion around the three-language policy should not be viewed as foreign languages disappearing from the system, said Prathima Patel, principal at Ryan International Academy. "Even before the three-language policy was introduced in the system, few CBSE schools offered foreign languages to students. I believe that schools can meaningfully integrate them through forming various clubs and skill-based learning programmes."

SIR is aimed at purifying rolls, says Anbu Kumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is not aimed at deletions, said Karnataka's Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbu Kumar, adding, "SIR is aimed at inclusion. It is aimed at purifying rolls, to get clear, pure electoral data."

The CEO hosted a media workshop ahead of the SIR rollout in the State on Wednesday, where he highlighted how activities would be carried out and explained the schedule.

He said the State was on top in mapping nationwide, and assured that it would do well in the areas currently lagging in voter mapping exercise as days remain before SIR is rolled out.

As of Wednesday, the State has crossed 88% in electoral, including progeny mapping, he said.

Recently, the Congress government had raised concerns over possible deletions in districts with high migration and allegations were made by civil society groups that the SIR exercise is aimed at arbitrary, mass deletions. The CEO, however, said one should refer to Election Commission of India guidelines and added that he "doesn't know and could not comment on the future of the electoral rolls".

He did not clarify media doubts regarding the purpose of the exercise, the issues that may arise if booth-level agents (BLAs) assigned by political parties misuse enumeration forms, if Booth Level Officers (BLOs) fail to map voters, or on the concerns consistently raised by BLOs themselves. The official maintained that the process is going as per the ECI guidelines. Addressing concerns regarding notices, the CEO said it will be served only in cases involving some "logical discrepancies". However, he again did not clarify whether voters in the State should be prepared for an additional category of "logical discrepancy" to emerge as part of the exercise.

On BLAs misusing details from the enumeration form, he said BLAs are trusted individuals chosen by political parties and that they would be entrusted with collecting enumeration forms from electors.

As of Wednesday, the CEO said a total of 69,944 BLAs had been appointed. These include 36,213 by the Congress, 31,115 by the BJP and 2,616 by the JD(S). On the notices being served, he said, "The notices, if sent, are only to clear some communication gaps. If enumeration forms are submitted, then names will appear in the draft electoral roll."

Peak effort

A trekker scales the jagged granite slopes of Bhairaveshwara Hill as the last light of day fades across the horizon along the Bidadi–Kanakapura Road in Bengaluru South — a rugged landscape where stone, silence, and sky merge in a timeless test of endurance.
K. MURALI KUMAR

'Shun ministerial berths if Congress does not offer CM post to a Dalit'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chalavadi Narayanaswamy addressing a press conference in Mysuru on Wednesday.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy has urged Dalit leaders in the Congress to reject ministerial berths if the party high command does not offer the Chief Minister's post to one of them.

Addressing a press conference in Mysuru on Wednesday, Mr. Narayanaswamy referred to the speculations over Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar replacing Siddaramaiah as the Chief Minister while accusing the Congress high command of "cheating" the Dalit community that has backed the party for almost eight decades since independence.

He wondered whether the Congress leaders in the State did not have the courage to demand the post. "If the Dalit leaders in the State have respect for B.R. Ambedkar, they should display their protest against the high command by not occupying any ministerial berth offered to them, he said.

Since the period of late Dalit leaders like B. Rachaiah, T. N. Narasimhamurthy and Srinivas Prasad from this part of the State and leaders like Basavalingappa and K. H. Ranganath to Mallikarjun Kharge and G. Parameshwar, the Congress has not made even one Dalit the State's Chief Minister, he lamented. Mr. Narayanaswamy claimed that the Congress had given into Mr. Shivakumar's demands as he had started meeting BJP leaders.

When asked if he would make a similar demand for a Dalit Chief Minister if the BJP comes to power in the State, Mr. Narayanaswamy claimed that the saffron party gives power to Dalits without asking.

KPS Dodda Alahalli renamed after Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's late father

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Karnataka Public School (KPS) located in Dodda Alahalli of Kanakapura Taluk, Bengaluru South District, has been renamed after Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's father the late D.K. Kempegowda.

The State government has issued an order renaming the KPS of Dodda Alahalli as 'Shri D.K. Kempegowda Karnataka Public School.'

The government has laid down criteria to attract donations from corporate bodies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and other donors for the new Karnataka Public Schools it plans to establish. According to this, organisations and individuals who have donated have been allowed to name the schools they have developed with their names, if they wish.

In this context, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had recommended to the School Education Department to name this KPS as Shri D.K Kempegowda Karnataka Public School.

Accordingly, the project director of Samagra Shikshan Karnataka submitted a proposal to the government seeking permission to rename the school after D.K. Kempegowda from the year 2026-27.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAY. 28
RISE 05:53 SET 18:41
RISE 16:17 SET 03:23

FRIDAY, MAY. 29
RISE 05:53 SET 18:42
RISE 17:07 SET 04:02

SATURDAY, MAY. 30
RISE 05:53 SET 18:42
RISE 17:59 SET 04:44

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	33	23

Bengaluru Today
34°C The weather will be warm. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Department of Technical Education issues safety norms to protect students from abuse

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Adolescence is a very sensitive stage in the life of a child; during this period physical, mental and social changes occur drastically, the circular notes. FILE PHOTO

The Department of Technical Education (DTE) has issued a circular to colleges in its jurisdiction to take appropriate measures to protect students from abuse and exploitation, including the appointment of psychiatrists, counsellors and implementation of a digital and cyber safety policy. Adolescence is a very sensitive stage in the life of a child. During this period physical, mental and social changes occur drastically, the circular noted.

This follows recommendation by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR).

The circular stated that the Karnataka State Child Protection Policy-2016 (Revised-2023) should be strictly implemented in every PU college. And Child Protection Committees should be formed as per the JJ Act (Juvenile Justice) 2015 and the Karnataka State Child Protection Policy.

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) should be implemented to report on sexual offences in every college and a Code of Conduct should be put in place for all staff and students. Under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, if there is any suspicion of child marriage, the authorities concerned should be informed immediately. It was also recommended that all colleges display the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on a permanent display board.

Among administrative measures, the order stated that qualified psychological counsellor should be appointed in every college. Adolescent health, sexual safety, online safety and legal awareness programmes should be conducted at least once every year. A digital safety and cyber security policy should be implemented in all colleges. Strict action should be taken against child pornography and online exploitation as per the Information Technology (IT) Act, the order noted.

A parent-student-counsellor meeting should be held at least once every semester. All students should be made to visit their nearest police station once a year under the 'Open House' programme.

Support measures

The skill education should be made mandatory for the personality development of children and to improve their self-defence skills. In addition, psychological and social support measures such as establishing Peer Support Groups/Buddy Systems in all colleges should be made so that students can provide psychological support to each other. Regular mental health screening should be conducted to detect stress, anxiety, depression and suicidal tendencies among students. A Confidential Grievance Redressal Mechanism should be established for students to lodge complaints confidentially, it noted.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

HONORING THE LIFE OF

J. D. JOHN THOMAS
B.E. (RETD.SUPT. ENG. (APSEB))
24 June 1928 – 26 May 2026

"I have fought the good fight and finished the race; I have kept the faith." - 2 Tim 4:7

Today we remember a remarkable man whose life was a blessing to thousands. Born in Megnanapuram and called home in Chennai, Across five generations, he stood as a hero with courage, steadfast and unwavering principles.

He served the APSEB with extraordinary dedication, never leaving his post even in the hardest of times. His faith in the Lord Jesus Christ guided him, and he built and nurtured churches wherever God opened the door.

Tributes, Respect and Love from his family members: sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchild and together with the families of Late Soundra Thomas and Late J Devathunai, plus many dear friends who honor his memory and the legacy he leaves behind.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

21st ANNIVERSARY

04.12.1922 Manikudy 28.05.2005
Shri M.V. KRISHNAMOORTHY IYER
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MANIKUDY VILLAGE
KUMBAKONAM

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Off-street parking push as on-street rollout slows

While a few multi-level parking facilities have been developed in the central part of the city, around 66 locations have been identified where MLCP can likely be implemented

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Even as the implementation of the on-street paid parking system is progressing slowly, city corporations are exploring off-street parking following suggestions from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Locations identified
While a few multi-level parking facilities have been developed in the central part of the city, around 66 locations have been identified where Multilevel Car Parking (MLCP) can likely be implemented.

Taking a step forward, the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) has identified vacant spaces, and work has already begun at one of the locations.

Space away from roads
Interestingly, the BNCC is going beyond MLCP and is implementing the system beneath a flyover where the space is wide but remains unmaintained.

Off-street parking options seen opposite the upcoming Kogilu Cross Metro Station in Yelahanka in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The proposed location is beneath the flyover opposite the upcoming Kogilu Cross Metro Station in Yelahanka.

A source in the BNCC explained that the main reasons for the failure of paid on-street parking are location and cost factors.

"In many corporations, there are no major commercial areas with constant footfall, which is ideal for paid parking.

In such cases, we need to identify places like upcoming metro stations, food streets, or shopping complexes so that vacant spaces can be monetised effectively," he explained.

All corporations are expecting a significant chunk of revenue from the paid parking system

"In the central corporation, there are several commercial establishments, and the floating population is massive," he added.

Revenue potential
According to him, every inch in that corporation has strong revenue potential, making it attractive even for bidders.

However, in other corporations, the challenge is to strike a balance between generating good revenue and ensuring profitability for the concessionaire.

Thus, the BNCC resorted to strategically identifying spaces and targeted Kogilu Circle, where a metro station is coming up.

Similarly, the BNCC is planning locations near bus stops, markets, and other areas with high footfall throughout the day. Other corporations are also identifying locations for off-street parking.

Notably, all corporations are expecting a significant chunk of revenue from the paid parking system.

However, except for the central corporation, where a dozen roads have been monetised through the parking system, other corporations are struggling to secure bidders.

Kogilu Cross parking
According to the BNCC source, although the location at Kogilu was identified strategically, the space belonged to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), for which the corporation sought permission.

According to a letter reviewed by *The Hindu*, the BNCC observed that a considerable extent of space beneath the flyover near Kogilu Circle is presently lying vacant and unattended, with no proper maintenance being carried out.

'Benefit the public'
"The location is strategically important, and a parking lot at this site will greatly benefit the general public by addressing parking issues in the vicinity. Further, development of the said parking facility will also help improve the upkeep of the area, prevent encroachments, and generate revenue for the department through regulated usage," the letter noted.

The source said the NHAI granted permission, but the space was filled with mud and other debris. Currently, the BNCC is carrying out development work at the site for its conversion.

Essentially, the corporations are now looking at monetising vacant spaces to bolster revenue sources while also keeping parking away from streets, thereby allowing smoother movement of vehicles.

Two die in lightning strike in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Two persons are reported to have died in separate incidents of lightning reported in different parts of Mysuru district on Wednesday. During the heavy rainfall, one Appaiah, a resident of Maladahalli village in H. D. Kote taluk is reported to have been struck by lightning around 1 p.m. on Wednesday, according to sources.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident, Yashodhamma, a resident of Hosapura village in Hunsur taluk also lost her life on Wednesday after she was struck by lightning during the rain.

Sources here said the deceased Yashodhamma is survived by her husband and two daughters.

Cow struck
In another case in Nooralakuppe village in Antharashanthe in H. D. Kote taluk, a cow is reported to have died after it was struck by lightning.

Deploy extra manpower, machinery to complete Wind Tunnel Junction underpass project: GBA chief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao on Wednesday once again pulled up officials and directed them to expedite work on the Wind Tunnel Junction underpass project near the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre on HAL Airport Road by deploying additional manpower and machinery to complete the work within the scheduled timeline.

During an inspection, the Chief Commissioner instructed officials to fast-track pending utility shifting works, including the relocation of pipelines, sewer lines, cables and optical fibre cables, and complete them within 10 days.

Mr. Rao directed officials to create temporary roads on both sides of the junction through defence land, ISRO, NAL premises and nearby private properties wherever feasible to ensure smooth traffic movement during construction and prevent congestion. Officials told the Chief Commissioner that nearly 70% of the work has been completed. They said that once utility relocation and retaining wall work are completed, the prefabricated box structures will be installed in the central section, following which the remaining service road works will be taken up in the final phase of the project.

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao inspecting the Wind Tunnel Underpass project near the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre on Old Airport Road on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Gobbler
Mr. Rao also directed officials to deploy the Gobbler smart waste collection machine on a trial basis across major roads in Bengaluru and submit a performance report before considering a wider rollout across city corporations.

The direction came during a demonstration of the machine held on Commercial Street in Shivajinagar. Mr. Rao said the city should increasingly adopt smart technology solutions to improve road cleanliness.

The Gobbler is a battery-operated smart litter-picking machine that can be operated either by a trained driver standing on it or remotely while walking alongside. The machine can run for nearly eight hours after about three hours of charging and is equipped with GPS tracking. It can also operate in narrow spaces.

The machine is fitted with a 240-litre waste collection container, dust filters, warning lights, reverse alarms, fire safety equipment and biodegradable garbage collection bags. Officials said it is designed to suction roadside waste, including dust, dry leaves, plastic covers, wrappers, bottles, paper, glass and small debris. It also includes a water storage and pressure-based cleaning system.

GBA officials said the machine would be tested in high-footfall areas and markets to assess its efficiency and operational feasibility before any large-scale deployment is considered.

AI-driven urban water governance is the future: Chief Secretary

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka is positioning itself as a national leader in artificial intelligence (AI)-driven urban water governance, with AI and digital technologies set to play a central role in managing future challenges such as climate change, rapid urbanisation, groundwater depletion, and infrastructure stress, Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary, said on Wednesday, at the National AI and Digital Water Summit 2026, organised by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

BWSSB Chairman V. Ram Prasath Manohar said the board was serving more than 14 million citizens.

"BWSSB has reduced Non-Revenue Water (leakage) from over 50% to nearly 26.5%, resulting in savings of nearly 200 million litres of water per day. AI-driven energy optimisation initiatives have identified nearly ₹42 crore worth of avoidable annual electricity expenditure across pumping systems. AI is not about dashboards. It is about predictive governance, accountability, and measurable outcomes. We are moving from reactive operations towards intelligent utility management," he said.

Visitors at India's first and largest National AI and Digital Water Summit 2026, by BWSSB, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Tushar Giri Nath, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, said technology alone cannot bring about transformative change; AI systems can only achieve success when complemented by institutional frameworks, government mechanisms, and human cooperation.

Orli Weitzman, Consul General of Israel in Bengaluru, said Israel, which once faced severe water scarcity, overcame it through continuous technological innovation, bold government policies, and comprehensive public participation. "Today, Israel successfully recycles 90% of its wastewater. We have brought water leakages down to an absolute minimum through the efficient use of AI and smart water grids," she said, adding Israel was ready to share the technology and experience with Karnataka and BWSSB, in particular.

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All eyes on Siddaramaiah's breakfast meet today

A day after being asked by the Congress high command to move to the Rajya Sabha, speculation over the CM's next move is likely to come to rest as he is expected to spell it out during the meeting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid fast-paced developments in Karnataka politics, all eyes are now on the move of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who has invited his Cabinet colleagues for a breakfast meeting on Thursday. A day after being asked by the Congress high command to move to the Rajya Sabha, thus paving the way for a leadership change, speculation over his next move is likely to come to rest as he is expected to spell it out during the breakfast meeting.

On Wednesday, some Congress legislators said publicly that he would resign on Thursday.

In his first interaction with the media after his New Delhi visit, Mr. Siddaramaiah refused to entertain pointed questions on leadership change in the State. He said, "I will speak tomorrow." He was speaking after offering floral tributes to first Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary in Bengaluru.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah leaving after paying homage to Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary, at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

While it is learnt that he is under pressure from some of his followers to continue in the post, the Chief Minister's move is likely to be known during the breakfast meeting, and later, he is likely to address a media conference. All India Congress Committee general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala arrived in the city on Wednesday apparently to smoothen the transition process. Mr. Surjewala also held deliberations with the Chief Minister later in the evening.

On the list of invitees for breakfast are his Cabinet colleagues, including his deputy D.K. Shivakumar, who arrived from New Delhi to Bengaluru on Wednesday evening. Mr. Shivakumar has been a contender for the top post ever since the Congress government reached the halfway mark of its five-year tenure in November 2025.

The breakfast meeting is at the Chief Minister's official residence in Bengaluru at 9 a.m. There is an indication that he might meet the Governor later in the day.

Given the Chief Minister's stature as a senior leader and key OBC face of the party, the Congress high command cannot push through a leadership change if he does not show readiness for a transition.

Mr. Siddaramaiah is currently the only OBC Chief Minister among the four Congress-ruled States. This is why the high command is keen to ensure that the transition is smooth, and have him on board.

Though multiple sources in the Karnataka Congress indicated that the Congress Legislature Party meeting will be convened on Friday if the process on Thursday is completed smoothly, Mr. Surjewala told presspersons that the CLP meet has not been called yet. While the party's general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal had said, post the day-long deliberations on Tuesday, that they were only focused on selecting candidates for the Rajya Sabha and Karnataka Legislative Council elections (scheduled on July 18), it was clear that leadership change was the key issue under discussion.

Multiple Deputy CMs, new KPCC president?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sources indicate that the new Ministry might have multiple Deputy Chief Ministers, with a carefully calculated caste combination comprising OBC, Lingayat, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Muslim faces to accommodate the interests of the party's traditional vote base. It is also being speculated that some of the Ministers in the current Cabinet could pave the way for new faces.

Along with the transition of power in the government, it is also likely that the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee will get a new president shortly.

The post is currently held by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. Public Works Department Minister Satish Jarkiholi, one of the aspirants for the post, said that he was ready to take up the responsibility and that he had communicated his desire to the high command.

Emotional scenes at Vidhana Soudha

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Emotional scenes were witnessed in Vidhana Soudha when Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was leaving his office after receiving the caste survey report from the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes on Wednesday.

Many employees who had gathered to bid farewell to him had tears, and some even requested him to stay in the post. They gathered at Vidhana Soudha's entrance and raised slogans in his favour as he boarded his vehicle.

Celebrations and protests across State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mixed scenes were reported in many places across the State on Wednesday over the speculated transition of power. While in several places, including Hubballi and Bengaluru, members of the Kuruba community staged protests, crackers were burst near the residence of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Sadashivanagar in Bengaluru.

Sweets were also distributed in Ramanagara. Supporters of the Chief Minister who were protesting in front of his residence were dispersed by the police.

A protest on Thursday has been announced by a Hubballi-based Kuruba association.

Amid leadership change developments, Chief Minister receives caste survey report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid quick-paced developments over a possible leadership transition, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah received the much-awaited Social and Educational Survey (caste census) report from the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes on Wednesday evening.

This gains particular significance in light of Mr. Siddaramaiah's legacy as a tall leader of the OBC bloc, and the report being viewed as part of his legacy. The report is also expected to bring pressure on the Congress, which has been championing the cause of OBC reservation and has brought pressure on the NDA-led Centre to incorporate caste enumeration as part of the General Census.

At short notice

Sources aware of the developments told *The Hindu* that commission members held a meeting called at short notice on Wednesday morning to discuss and finalise the report. By evening, the report was submitted by commission chairman Madhusudan R. Naik, accompanied by commission members, to the Chief Minister, who arrived at his office in Vidhana Soudha to receive it.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah receiving the Social and Educational Survey report on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The survey, conducted in 2025 at an estimated cost of ₹635 crore, covered nearly 5.9 crore of the then estimated population of 6.26 crore in Karnataka. As many as 54 questions were part of the survey, which was also boycotted by certain sections and witnessed intervention of the Karnataka High Court.

Government sources said that now, the onus of implementing the report will rest on the Congress government, which has a little less than two years left in its term. "The Cabinet will have to discuss it and decide how to proceed further. It may decide to place it before the legislature and also allow public consultation and feedback," the sources said, adding that Mr. Siddaramaiah received the report to ensure his legacy and so that the party and future leaders could be accountable for its implementation.

According to sources, discussions on accepting the survey report had figured in the last Cabinet meeting when several Ministers had asked the Chief Minister about the survey report. They had expressed fears that it would lose importance once the national survey begins.

Earlier report

This is the report of the second survey conducted by the commission headed by Mr. Naik. The earlier survey, conducted by the H. Kantharaj Commission in 2015, the report of which was submitted by the Jayaprakash Hegde-led commission in 2024, had been shelved on the basis of it being "outdated data". The first survey had been opposed by people within the Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet, including Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Industries Minister M.B. Patil, who belong to the Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities, respectively. Incidentally, Mr. Shivakumar is now the strongest contender to succeed Mr. Siddaramaiah in the event of a power transition in Karnataka.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has been pushing for the caste survey and increased reservation for OBCs, while the commission's report had been hanging fire in Karnataka. The pushback came from the dominant Vokkaliga and Veerashaiva-Lingayat communities, which, seeking a "fresh scientific survey", forced Mr. Siddaramaiah to set aside the first report. The survey will potentially weigh heavily on the Congress government, with opposing caste interests at play from within and outside.

State will go to mid-term polls, says Vijayendra

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Bharatiya Janata Party State president B.Y. Vijayendra has asserted that Karnataka is headed for mid-term elections, regardless of who succeeds Siddaramaiah as Chief Minister in the ongoing power struggle in the Congress.

Speaking to the media here on Wednesday, Mr. Vijayendra said the Congress high command's marathon meeting in Delhi, which culminated in a directive to Mr. Siddaramaiah to step down, was itself an admission of the government's failure. "This clearly shows that even the Congress high command has acknowledged that the Siddaramaiah-led government failed to deliver good governance to the people of Karnataka over the last three years," he said.

Mr. Vijayendra argued that despite Mr. Siddaramaiah's reputation as an experienced administrator, his tenure had thrust the State into deep debt and was marked by multiple corruption scandals.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra addressing the media in Shivamogga on Wednesday. S.K. DINESH

He dismissed the Congress party's attempts to cite its recent bypoll victories as evidence of public support. "Bypoll results are not a yardstick for measuring a government's performance. If they were, Siddaramaiah would not be losing his position," he said pointedly.

Further, Mr. Vijayendra maintained that the Congress was on a steady decline across the country, and that no replacement for Mr. Siddaramaiah would be able to arrest that slide. "Whoever takes over as Chief Minister, the Congress government will not complete its term. Mid-term polls are inevitable," he said.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok on Wednesday remarked that what Karnataka needs today is not merely a change of Chief Minister, but a complete change of the "anti-people Congress government".

"Ever since the Congress came to power in 2023, governance in Karnataka has become a mirage. Development, welfare of people and farmers, and the future of our youth have all taken a backseat. The government is consumed by just one question – Who gets the chair?" he said in a social media post.

Hassan cattle market boycott to extend to other parts of State

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

The boycott by buyers that left hundreds of farmers stranded at Hassan's weekly cattle market on Tuesday is set to continue for several more weeks – and may soon spread across Karnataka.

Muslim organisations behind the boycott said they are determined to maintain pressure on the State government until it repeals the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, which, they claimed, has been weaponised against their community.

Muslim buyers stayed away from the market in an act of protest against the stringent cattle slaughter law, which they said has made the trade not just difficult but dangerous to them. Traders transporting cattle face harassment and police action, and obtaining a licence to operate a slaughterhouse has become an ordeal, they added. Rather than risk legal trouble, the community has resolved to stop buying cattle altogether and to observe Bakrid by sacrificing sheep and goats.

Muslim buyers stayed away from the market in an act of protest against the stringent cattle slaughter law. FILE PHOTO

Risky trade

Mohammed Zafar, a cattle trader from Alur whose family has been in the trade for decades, explained the ground reality. "We conduct our business within the law, which permits only the slaughter of buffaloes. Even then, we face problems from the police. We struggle to obtain slaughterhouse licences. We have decided to boycott the market for some time to avoid such risks," he said.

As a result, hundreds of farmers who had arrived at the Hassan market hoping to sell aged and unproductive cattle and use the money for cultivation, school fees, or medical expenses, were left with no buyers and the added burden of paying to transport unsold animals back home.

Unproductive cattle

"We cannot afford to keep unproductive cattle. We farmers are already burdened with so many problems. Selling cattle at the market used to fetch us a few thousand rupees," said one farmer in a video clip from the market that went viral on Tuesday.

The boycott has the backing of the Federation of Muslim Organisations, which has also appealed to community members not to purchase cattle for the festival, advising them to avoid the legal complications that such purchases now entail.

State convener Anshad Palya, a lawyer, told *The Hindu* that the federation had met with cattle traders and slaughterhouse workers and persuaded them to extend the boycott. "We will continue until the State government withdraws this controversial law that imposes restrictions on the transportation and slaughter of cattle," he said.

Many booked

Mr. Palya pointed out that since the law was enacted by the BJP government in 2020, a large number of people – predominantly from the Muslim community – had been booked under its provisions, even for legitimate trade. "Our community has resolved to stop buying cattle to avoid inviting police action. If there are no buyers, there is no trade – and that is the message we want the government to hear," he said.

The federation is now in contact with community leaders across other districts to expand the campaign State-wide. A round table involving dairy farmers, traders, and activists from progressive organisations is being planned in Hassan to build a broader coalition around the demand.

Mr. Palya also took aim at what he called the BJP's double standards on the issue. "The BJP supports cattle trade and slaughter in several States where it is in power, including neighbouring Goa. But in Karnataka, it opposes it. And fringe groups backed by the party take the law into their own hands and harass people in the trade," he alleged.

The federation has demanded repeal of the law and licenced slaughterhouses to be run by the government so that those dependent on the trade can carry on peacefully and lawfully, he said.

Q4: Banks in State disbursed ₹2,47,754 cr. towards agri sector

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Banks in Karnataka have reported a disbursement of ₹2,47,754 crore towards the agriculture sector in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026, as against their target of ₹2,22,203 crore, said Bhavendra Kumar, executive director, Canara Bank, here on Tuesday.

Speaking at the 175th State Level Bankers' Committee meeting held at the Vidhana Soudha, he said banks have achieved 111% of their allotted target during the fourth quarter.

For the MSME sector, they achieved a growth of 106% and the total priority sector grew 108%.

Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary, who chaired the meeting, reviewed the State's performance – bank-wise and district-wise – under sub-sectors such as Total Credit, Total Deposits, Priority Sector, and Target Achievements.

She advised bankers and government departments to work in unison for smooth and seamless integration of development activities for better implementation.

Ms. Rajneesh reviewed all development schemes/government-sponsored schemes and advised banks to clear pending applications. She instructed bankers to on-board the NRLM (National Rural Livelihoods Mission) Self-Help Group Business Correspondent (BC) Sakhis as BC agents in all gram panchayat locations.

T.N. Minister says CM need not be Chancellor of varsities

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Higher Education Minister and Congress MLA P. Viswanathan's statement in Madurai on Wednesday that the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led government need not adhere to the previous government's stance that the Chief Minister should be the Chancellor of universities has drawn criticism from the DMK and VCK.

During his visit to Madurai, the Minister had said the present government – headed by the TVK in alliance with the Congress, the CPI, the CPI(M), the VCK, and the IUML – should not find it imperative to stick to the stand taken by the previous DMK government that the Chief Minister alone should be the Chancellor of State-run universities. He also said that Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay would take a decision on this.

Former Higher Education Minister and DMK deputy general secretary K. Ponmudy strongly condemned the remarks made by Mr. Viswanathan.

'Highly condemnable'

In a statement, Mr. Ponmudy said, "Under the DMK government led by M.K. Stalin, a Bill to appoint the Chief Minister as the Chancellor of universities in Tamil Nadu was passed in the Legislative Assembly with the support of all non-BJP parties, including the Congress, the VCK, the CPI, the CPI(M), the AIADMK, and the MDMK. While that Bill was forwarded to the Governor for the President's assent, and remains pending without approval, the statement of Viswanathan – the Higher Education Minister of the newly formed TVK government and a member of the Congress party – that the Governor can continue as the University Chancellor is highly condemnable. This goes completely against the State's rights.

"A member of the Congress party, which initially supported the passage of this Bill, speaking against it today suggests that the Congress has compromised its ideology for the sake of enjoying power," he further stated.

Joining issue with the Minister, D. Ravikumar, Member of Parliament and VCK leader, pointed out on social media that the statement amounted to abandoning what Tamil Nadu fought for and secured in the interest of the State's rights.

"Is the Honourable Higher Education Minister making this statement with the approval of the Chief Minister?" Mr. Ravikumar asked, tagging the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's official X handle.

Mr. Ravikumar also said the statement was in complete disregard of the Supreme Court's verdict. On February 4, 2026, the apex court had set aside a Madras High Court interim order that stayed the amendments to certain laws governing State-run universities passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

High drama outside Pinarayi's residence as ED conducts raid

CPI(M) workers gather at ex-CM's house in Kerala capital, raise slogans; protesters vandalise three vehicles; police baton-charge activists to clear way for convoy; ED files complaint over attack

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) operation at the residence of Kerala's Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday turned into a tense political scene. The ED raid led to protests by Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] workers across the State.

The raid continued for nearly eight hours under the watch of CRPF and Kerala Police personnel.

Hundreds of CPI(M) workers gathered outside the residence, raising slogans against the central agency and denouncing the action as politically motivated. Senior party leaders repeatedly appealed for restraint.

CPI(M) supporters protest outside the residence of Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Emotionally charged scenes ensued as workers attempted to scale the compound walls and iron barricades.

After the ED team completed the search operation and prepared to leave the premises, officials, including women officers, came out of the house and moved towards their vehicles under CRPF protection. Three vehicles carrying ED personnel initially attempted to leave, but were quickly surrounded by protesters.

The vehicles were soon vandalised, with protesters damaging the front and rear windshields. Police personnel struggled to push back the crowd as protesters closed in on the convoy. A driver and three police officers sustained injuries during the attack, according to officials.

The deteriorating situation eventually forced the police officers to baton-charge the activists and create a corridor for the convoy to exit safely.

ED officials later submitted a formal complaint at the Thampanoor police station regarding the attack on the convoy.

CPI(M) condemns ED action; Stalin, Kejriwal criticise 'misuse' of Central agencies by BJP

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

CPI(M) General Secretary M.A. Baby has questioned whether the United Democratic Front (UDF) government, led by the Congress, was complicit in the raids at the residences of Opposition leader Pinarayi Vijayan. His remarks were echoed by several Opposition leaders outside Kerala.

DMK leader M.K. Stalin strongly condemned the ED raids, maintaining that "such actions once again raise serious concerns over the growing pattern of Central agencies being weaponised against Opposition leaders". He went on to say that the raids also exposed "the hollowness of the reckless allegations made by some Congress leaders who repeatedly questioned why Pinarayi Vijayan had not yet been targeted by the BJP".

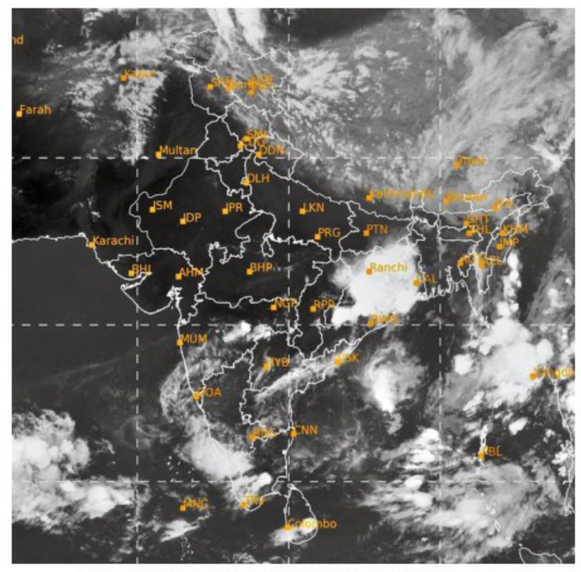
Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal termed the raids as another instance of "the blatant misuse of Central agencies by the BJP to target regional opposition parties and undermine democracy".

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police detained around 60 CPI(M) activists and leaders who took out a march from the Khan Market area to the ED office, condemning the raids. Apart from Mr. Baby, veteran leader Brinda Karat, Polit Bureau members Ashok Dhawale, Mariam Dhawale and Vijoo Krishnan, Central Secretariat member Dr. Vikram and SFI national president Adarsh Saji were among those detained at three different locations till 7 p.m.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Baby said the raids smacked of political vendetta. He said the BJP was demonstrating "neofascistic" behaviour through the suppression of democratic rights.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	12	25.6	21.1	Kozhikode	21	34.0	25.8
Ahmedabad	—	43.6	28.9	Kurnool	5	33.6	22.7
Aizawl	5	31.5	19.6	Lucknow	—	40.0	28.0
Prayagraj	—	46.4	28.6	Madurai	—	38.5	26.6
Bengaluru	21	29.6	19.3	Mangaluru	—	32.8	26.5
Bhopal	—	43.6	29.6	Mumbai	—	35.1	29.2
Bhubaneswar	—	37.6	29.6	Mysuru	—	33.2	21.0
Chandigarh	—	43.1	22.5	New Delhi	—	44.3	26.2
Chennai	—	39.5	28.5	Patna	—	35.0	25.8
Coimbatore	—	34.6	24.9	Port Blair	3	31.7	25.3
Dehradun	—	38.5	22.1	Puducherry	—	37.8	27.6
Gangtok	34	17.8	13.8	Pune	—	37.8	25.0
Goa	—	34.6	28.5	Raipur	—	44.3	29.6
Guwahati	0.2	30.2	25.4	Ranchi	—	37.0	25.0
Hubballi	—	34.0	24.0	Shillong	—	23.0	16.0
Hyderabad	5	33.0	23.6	Shimla	—	33.2	21.5
Imphal	2.1	31.8	18.7	Srinagar	—	29.6	11.5
Jaipur	—	43.7	32.0	Thiruvananthapuram	7	31.9	26.0
Kochi	0.2	30.8	26.6	Tiruchirapalli	—	38.4	27.6
Kohima	—	26.0	16.0	Vijayawada	5	38.4	27.0
Kolkata	—	33.6	26.5	Visakhapatnam	—	37.4	28.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.20	..69	22	 43	...105	
Bengaluru	.16	..19	51	 31	...106	
Chennai	...5	..14	52	 40	52	
Delhi	.21	129	56	... 205	...302	
Hyderabad	.13	..15	24	 60	98	
Kolkata	...8	..23	35	 64	...103	
Lucknow	.10	..48	47	... 154	...122	
Mumbai	.15	113	31	 21	32	
Pune	..—	..22	49	 33	46	
Visakhapatnam	.25	..62	21	 63	...130	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 300 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Expedite procurement of paddy, says Telangana CM

P. Laxma Reddy
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to stay on high alert in view of the orange alert issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for several districts in Telangana, as heavy rainfall lashed different parts of the State.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to accelerate paddy procurement operations and ensure additional arrangements to protect procured grain from rain damage.

Farmers in Telangana have demanded that the government procure rain-soaked paddy as well.

Salvaging the harvest

Salty woes: Workers collect salt and rebuild heaps after heavy rain and strong winds blew away the tarpaulin sheets covering salt heaps in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. Salt entrepreneurs said they had stored the salt in heaps due to the lack of a remunerative price despite higher yield. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

Rabies scare grips Kollam after dog bites 15 people before death

The Hindu Bureau
KOLLAM

A severe rabies scare has gripped the residents of Anchalumoodu and surrounding areas in Kollam, Kerala, after a stray dog, which went on a biting spree injuring around 15 people, tested positive for rabies. The disease was confirmed during a post-mortem examination conducted at the District Veterinary Centre. The confirmation has triggered panic among the local community, especially those currently undergoing treatment for dog bites.

The situation has escalated into a public health concern as officials fear the infected dog might have interacted with other stray animals and cattle in the locality. To prevent a potential outbreak, the local body and Animal Husbandry Department have launched an emergency vaccination drive. Authorities have announced plans to capture as many stray dogs as possible in the area and administer anti-rabies vaccinations immediately.

The incident highlights a larger crisis brewing across the district, which has seen a sharp increase in stray dog attacks over recent weeks. According to the Animal Husbandry Department, infrastructure limitations are severely crippling population control efforts. Currently, Kollam district operates only a single Animal Birth Control (ABC) centre, a facility that officials admit is entirely inadequate to manage the rising stray dog population across the district.

Aggravating the problem, the crucial birth control programme has ground to a complete halt due to administrative delays. An official from the department said that since the election was declared, the ABC programme has been on a standstill. Experts and officials warn that such gaps in execution will lead to a considerable and rapid increase in the stray dog population.

Local resident associations are calling for immediate intervention, pointing out that children and the elderly are the most vulnerable to these aggressive packs.

Police flag suspected thefts and security lapses at Kerala temple

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A high-level police intelligence report has exposed massive security lapses and suspected thefts of priceless valuables at the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Kerala. A report, prepared by Additional Director General of Police (Headquarters) S. Sreejith on behalf of the State Police Chief in this regard, has been officially submitted to the Home department for further action.

According to the official communication, recent inquiries have raised grave concerns regarding the temple's treasury management. The primary findings detail that nearly 78 grams of gold bars and coins, donated to the shrine as offerings by devotees, have gone missing recently.

Besides, a multi-tiered gold lamp, which was removed from the temple premises under the guise of maintenance, has not been returned and was instead replaced by a silver substitute without official records. Compounding the crisis, the sacred '*Vaira Nama*', an invaluable diamond ornament that was traditionally installed inside the inner sanctum sanctorum, has been missing for the last six months after being purportedly taken away for repair works.

The inquiry has also unearthed a pattern of security protocol evasion at the Chembakathummoodu entrance of the temple. The report explicitly states that specific temple employees, security staff and associates of the erstwhile royal family have been bypassing mandatory security screenings.

The report adds that the individuals, who are "reportedly close to Aditya Varma", a member of the family, are known to visit the Kowdiar Palace regularly.

Based on the findings, the police headquarters has recommended immediate action to secure the remaining valuables.

The report also calls for a zero-tolerance policy on security bypasses.

Kerala scientists discover new evergreen tree species at Shendurney Sanctuary

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Scientists from the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), in Palode, Kerala, have discovered a new evergreen tree species from the southern Western Ghats of Kerala. The newly discovered species identified in the riparian forests of the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary has been officially named as *Humboldtia nairiana*.

The species, belonging to the genus *Humboldtia*, has been named in honour of G.M. Nair, a distinguished plant biotechnologist and former Director of JNTBGRI. The initial breakthrough for the discovery began in 2010 during a floristic exploration along the Cheenikkala-Pandimotta forest trail within the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary. Three scientists from JNTBGRI collected an unusual and taxonomically intriguing specimen.

Humboldtia nairiana has been named in honour of G.M. Nair, a distinguished plant biotechnologist. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

To carefully observe and safeguard the plant, a few healthy seedlings were brought back and successfully established *ex-situ* within the JNTBGRI Arboretum. After a prolonged juvenile phase, the cultivated trees began flowering and fruiting in 2022. This allowed the research team to conduct a comprehensive morphological assessment, which confirmed that its distinct vegetative and reproductive characters set it apart as a brand-new species to science.

The species is strictly endemic to Kerala and is presently known only from the biodiversity-rich Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve. Alarmingly, field surveys indicate a fragile wild population. Based on the IUCN Red List criteria, the species has been categorised as 'data deficient' to highlight the need for extensive field tracking and habitat protection.

TDP proposes 33% seats for women in 2029 A.P. polls

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party national working president Nara Lokesh has proposed the allotment of 33% of seats in the 2029 Assembly election in Andhra Pradesh to women.

At the TDP's two-day annual political conclave that began on Wednesday, Mr. Lokesh said women should be given 33% quota whether the Women's Reservation Bill was passed in Parliament or not. As a party that had been committed to women's empowerment since its inception, the TDP would take the lead in this effort, Mr. Lokesh said.

Betrayal of mandate

The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam should not allow defectors to join the party

Before the indelible ink applied on voters' index fingers could fade, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has introduced in Tamil Nadu a disturbing brand of politics bearing striking similarities to the 'Operation Lotus' model first adopted by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Karnataka. By instantly embracing into its fold four All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) legislators who resigned their Assembly membership, the fledgling TVK, which marketed itself as a "pure force", has adopted a dubious tactic deployed by its "ideological opponent", the BJP. This model encourages Opposition legislators to resign and join the ruling party, with an opportunity to re-enter the Assembly through by-elections. Irrespective of its legitimacy or the prospects of the four legislators re-entering the electoral fray soon, the operation's objective remains no different from the 'Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram' model of horse-trading. The AIADMK rebels, who voted for the TVK during the trust vote, attributed intra-party concerns to their resignations, which the Speaker accepted in quick time. Apart from dishonouring the people's mandate within just 21 days, the move comes when petitions for their disqualification were pending with the Speaker. Clearly, the TVK is wary of the inherent political checks and balances in the State's fragile first post-poll coalition government and appears to be preparing to ease out allies should they pose challenges.

The development is not entirely surprising, as the TVK has so far displayed an uncanny political instinct for exploiting support from rival parties to tide over crises, be it after the Karur rally stampede or during government formation. In the wake of the fractured mandate, the TVK simultaneously reached out to constituents of both the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance and the National Democratic Alliance that includes the AIADMK and the BJP. Early on, Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam leader T.T.V. Dhinakaran had flagged an attempt to poach his lone legislator. Besides, despite securing the support of the DMK's erstwhile allies, C. Joseph Vijay had no qualms about calling on tainted AIADMK rebel leaders on the eve of the floor test, while calculatedly ignoring the party's general secretary, Edappadi K. Palaniswami. This encouraged divisions within the AIADMK legislature party during the voting, prompting representations for disqualifying the rebels. By now, 'Operation Lotus' has become a familiar playbook for subverting the people's mandate. The trend calls for amendments to election laws, perhaps through the imposition of a "cooling period" restraining candidates from contesting the immediate by-election caused by their resignation. Otherwise, such defections accompanied by resignations will only be seen as subverting democratic processes.

Partial digitisation

Cumbersome processes from analogue era remain despite more online services

Digitising citizen services is a process full of promise and empowerment. In India, making processes faceless carries the added benefit of relief from the rent seeking that is rife in government offices. The more services are available online, the better. It is possible; in December 2024, Estonia digitised the last citizen service that only remained possible on paper: divorce. In this light, participation of private firms such as WhatsApp in getting digital services delivered to more people, as in Gujarat, is welcome. This being said, the digital service delivery in India has several issues: a lack of trust towards the citizen, in spite of the citizen-centricity touted as the reason for their existence; systematic underinvestment leading to lapses in availability and reliability; and lax cybersecurity. In many cases involving the most dysfunctional online services, the responsibility lies with States, such as property records registration and civil acts such as marriage. But even in those where the remit lies with the Union government, there are serious issues.

While lip service is paid to the importance of securing key cybersecurity infrastructure, serious vulnerabilities remain. Security of data residing on public databases is taken for granted, and institutions such as the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) have failed to rise to the challenge. Also, on myriad forms online, users are forced to type and submit the same details repeatedly, even though systems such as Digi Locker exist that are purported to ease this process. A shadow of a "mismatch" can anyway result, and few if any processes allow citizens to cure defects without redoing the entire process – a shocking lapse punishing routine variations in names and spellings. Scant regard is paid to the accessibility and intuitive design, leaving persons with disabilities and vast swathes of the population dependent on outside assistance to go through a self-service process. Some systems are left defunct or sputtering years after their launch: take e-Sanad, launched a decade ago to help people legalise personal documents while travelling abroad or emigrating. Few States have been on-boarded, leaving other residents to deal with middlemen and touts in the pre-verification process that precedes the so-called Apostille stamp they need on a time-bound schedule. As with this process, the analogue equivalents of broken digital services remain inaccessible and cumbersome, such as updating details on Aadhaar, which requires visiting a physical office. The creation of Digital Public Infrastructure such as UPI and Aadhaar are of little use without reciprocal trust by the government and a commitment to uptime and service quality.

Global crises demand more than 'citizen sacrifice'

Chandrakant Lahariya

Practising cardiometabolic physician and health policy specialist who has worked with the United Nations system for nearly 18 years

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued seven appeals urging citizens to embrace restraint, self-reliance, and responsible consumption amid global uncertainty caused by the America-Iran conflict and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. These included buying local products, conserving energy, avoiding unnecessary foreign travel, prioritising domestic tourism, supporting indigenous innovation, and promoting work from home wherever feasible.

The appeals have drawn mixed reactions from political parties, economists, businesses, and the public. Some view them as practical nationalism suited to an unstable world, while others see them as realism rather than rhetoric. Supporters argue that promoting domestic consumption and reducing external dependence could strengthen India's resilience in a fractured global economy, while some in the social sector see the messages as supportive of healthier and environmentally sustainable lifestyles.

A subtle shift to the citizen

There is merit in these arguments. India, like every other country, must prepare for a more uncertain global environment. Yet, Mr. Modi's appeals warrant closer scrutiny, as they primarily seek to modify citizen behaviour while leaving governments and institutions relatively insulated from equivalent responsibility. In doing so, the burden of managing structural crises is subtly shifted from the state to individuals.

Modern democratic governance rests on an implicit social contract. Citizens pay taxes, obey laws, participate in democracy, and contribute to the economy. In return, governments are expected to provide public goods, social protection, health care, infrastructure, education, economic stability, and strategic preparedness. Governments exist not merely to advise citizens during crises, but to build systems resilient enough to withstand them. Yet, they often fall short of fulfilling this contract, with even electoral promises only partially implemented before being repackaged for future elections.

When elected governments increasingly respond to structural economic or geopolitical shocks by urging citizens to consume responsibly, sacrifice, adapt, or remain resilient, without simultaneously undertaking matching institutional reforms, the social contract begins to weaken. Long-term opportunities for structural correction are gradually replaced by behavioural messaging and symbolic appeals.

This phenomenon, of course, is not unique to India. Across the world, governments confronting inflation, climate stress, energy insecurity, or economic slowdown routinely ask citizens to reduce consumption, recycle more, conserve electricity, or embrace austerity. Individual behaviour certainly matters. But such appeals often obscure the much larger responsibility of states and corporations in shaping systemic outcomes. That is why a wider public dialogue and deeper reflection on these issues become essential. Behavioural appeals may generate symbolic solidarity, but symbolism cannot become a substitute for institutional preparedness.

National resilience requires strong institutions, not merely behavioural appeals alone

Question for the government

The modern global economy is extraordinarily interconnected. Food security, climate change, financial systems, and technological ecosystems all transcend national borders. No country, including India, can insulate itself through behavioural nationalism alone. The danger lies in oversimplifying complex structural challenges into moral obligations for citizens. Patriotism, however emotionally resonant, cannot replace long-term economic planning, institutional competence, and policy coherence. National resilience is built through capable institutions and sustained public investment.

There is also an uncomfortable asymmetry. Citizens are repeatedly advised to conserve, adjust, and become self-reliant. Yet, why are governments not publicly issuing equivalent commitments to transparency, regulatory stability, public investment, and institutional reform?

Instead of focusing primarily on what citizens should do for governments during crises, one may ask a more foundational democratic question: what should governments do for citizens during periods of global instability? If these seven appeals were reconstructed from a citizen-centric perspective, the priorities would look very different.

First, governments must invest far more seriously in social protection systems. The COVID-19 pandemic showed that resilient societies are built not only through disciplined citizens, but also through strong public institutions. Yet, improvements since then have remained uneven. In health care, the expansion of private and corporate services has often outpaced the strengthening of public systems. Future resilience requires sustained investment in primary health care, disease surveillance, nutrition, mental health, emergency preparedness, education, and other social sectors.

Second, governments must confront rising economic inequality rather than relying excessively on consumption patriotism. Economic resilience cannot emerge from patriotic appeals alone when millions remain financially insecure, unemployed, or trapped within informal labour systems and the gig economy without adequate social protection.

Third, governments must prioritise long-term investments in education, scientific research, and public universities. Genuine self-reliance is built through decades of investment in laboratories, universities, manufacturing ecosystems, scientific temper, and innovation capacity. It is not enough merely to establish Indian campuses of Ivy League universities; Indian universities and research institutions must themselves emerge as among the world's leading centres of knowledge and innovation.

Fourth, governments must strengthen transparency, public trust, and their handling of widespread public anxiety and uncertainty. During crises, trust becomes a strategic national asset. Citizens cooperate when governments communicate honestly, acknowledge uncertainties, and allow independent institutions, experts, and media to function freely.

Fifth, governments must invest far more seriously in climate resilience and sustainable urbanisation. Asking citizens to conserve electricity while cities continue to suffer from poor planning, inadequate public transport, shrinking green spaces, and worsening environmental degradation addresses symptoms rather than causes. While the push for electric vehicles and alternative energy is welcome, quality urban infrastructure remains inadequate. Failed initiatives such as smart cities are rarely evaluated critically and are instead quietly forgotten.

Sixth, governments must reduce regulatory unpredictability and create stable, fair policy environments for businesses, workers, researchers, and entrepreneurs. National resilience depends upon predictable governance and institutional consistency.

Seventh, governments must protect democratic dialogue instead of allowing criticism to be routinely framed as anti-national. Democracies become stronger through open debate, institutional criticism, intellectual diversity, and democratic course correction.

The need for strong institutions

None of this implies that citizens have no responsibilities. Responsible consumption, environmental awareness, social solidarity, and support for domestic capabilities are important civic virtues. But they cannot substitute for governance itself. Democracies cannot function sustainably if governments merely offer behavioural advice while citizens bear the consequences of structural vulnerabilities.

The larger danger of behavioural politics is that it normalises institutional underperformance. Individual responsibility matters, but it cannot become the primary response to fundamentally structural problems.

India aspires to become a major economic and geopolitical power. Achieving that ambition will require strong institutions, evidence-based policymaking, investment in human capital, and a renewed social contract in which governments accept greater responsibility for national resilience. The true test of leadership during crises is whether governments demonstrate the accountability, foresight, and policy seriousness needed to protect citizens in an increasingly uncertain world.

Tariffs to carbon, the new rules shaping India's trade

Poornima Varma

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Proposed in July 2021, the European Union (EU)'s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) entered its definitive phase from January 1, 2026. As a climate policy tool, CBAM seeks to prevent carbon leakage by imposing a carbon-linked charge on imports based on their embedded emissions. Carbon-intensive products such as steel, cement, aluminium, fertilizers, electricity, and hydrogen will be affected. While CBAM could encourage wider adoption of carbon-pricing policies and help reduce global emissions, it also poses significant challenges for developing countries such as India.

Even as India pursues bilateral trade negotiations with the EU, CBAM will still apply, making carbon-intensive exports to Europe costlier. Market access, therefore, is increasingly being shaped not only by tariffs but also by compliance with carbon-emission standards. Its effects may also extend beyond targeted sectors through global price shifts and the gradual adoption of similar policies by other developed countries.

Sectors to be impacted

India's steel and aluminium sectors are likely to face the most immediate impact, given their dependence on European markets and carbon-intensive production processes. Although the carbon levy will formally be paid by EU importers, part of the burden is likely to shift to exporters through tighter contracts and stricter supplier selection. As European buyers increasingly prefer low-emission suppliers, Indian exporters may have to absorb some of the additional costs to remain competitive in the European market or invest in cleaner technologies to retain market access. In the short run, compliance costs could shrink profit margins and hurt export competitiveness despite ongoing free trade agreement negotiations.

India's carbon trade challenge demands reforms and effective global negotiations

The effects of CBAM are not confined to direct trade impacts. As a major net importer of fertilizers, India may also face indirect price pressures through global price transmission. Key fertilizer exporters to the EU – Egypt, Russia, Morocco and China – are also major suppliers of fertilizers to India. As these suppliers face higher carbon-compliance costs, part of the burden is likely to be passed on through higher global fertilizer prices. India's fertilizer import bill is therefore likely to increase, jeopardising the agricultural sector, farm profitability and high food prices. More broadly, CBAM signals a structural shift in global trade, as other developed countries consider adopting similar carbon tariff compliance policies, potentially constraining market access for developing countries such as India.

The CBAM framework

CBAM is structurally distinct from traditional non-tariff measures (NTMs), such as product standards. While NTMs affect market access through compliance requirements and are largely qualitative, with scope for interpretation, CBAM is price-based and quantifiable, directly linking market access for carbon-intensive products to carbon emissions.

In this changed scenario, even if exporters comply with the product quality standards in destination markets, the carbon intensity of production is likely to raise export costs and thereby constrain market access. Additionally, investing in cleaner energy and transitioning toward carbon-neutral production is significantly more expensive than complying with conventional product quality standards, especially in the short run.

Market access and export growth are no longer determined by tariffs alone. As global trade becomes increasingly linked to carbon-emission measures, comparative advantage now depends not only on production efficiency and pricing, but also on the carbon efficiency of production processes. In this context, countries such as India must adopt a two-pronged strategy of domestic reform and effective international negotiation.

Moves to consider

Domestically, greater investment in clean energy and stricter implementation of carbon policies are essential to improve firms' carbon efficiency. Internationally, India must negotiate for equitable treatment of developing countries so that the short-run costs of carbon compliance can be eased through a phased transition. Since climate policies such as CBAM also raise the cost of importing emission-intensive and more expensive goods such as fertilizers, reducing import dependence through higher domestic production and better implementation of the Soil Health Cards Scheme and the promotion of balanced and need-based application of fertilizers is equally important. India must also seek transitional support and technology transfer to ensure a level playing field in trade agreements with developed countries. The challenge is not merely adapting to carbon-constrained trade regimes, but ensuring that the transition does not undermine growth and sustainability.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hurried digital shift

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) seems to have introduced its new On-Screen Marking (OSM) system in great haste, and imposed the same on examiners without adequate training. Students write examinations under pressure and within limited time, making careful human evaluation essential.

In the manual system, examiners take time to read, analyse, and award marks with judgment — something OSM cannot replace. Examination evaluation is not meant to showcase achievements under the Digital India programme, but to safeguard the future of lakhs of students.

Of late, the CBSE seems to be turning from the Central Board of Secondary Education into the 'Central Board of Spoiling Education'.

N. Nagarajan,
Secunderabad

Maritime plans

Amidst the ongoing war in West Asia as well as the conflict in the South China Sea, it is best for India to have friends equipped with the most advanced capabilities in the maritime domain. However, such bold initiatives aimed at enhancing freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the South China Sea need robust political will and diplomatic acumen to yield results.

Manas Agarwal,
Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

Elite privilege

The government's decision to acquire land under the Delhi Gymkhana Club has displeased the same elite bureaucracy that sermonises about austerity, subsidy burdens, and the "optimal allocation of resources", but seldom explains how sprawling clubs with manicured greens, subsidised liquor, elite sporting facilities, and prime urban real estate continue to flourish at throwaway costs. The issue is not merely social; it is moral. India's genuine sporting ecosystem gasps for oxygen. District stadia decay, school grounds vanish, and aspiring athletes crowd-fund their dreams. Yet, state patronage continues to flow effortlessly towards elite recreational islands masquerading as heritage institutions for those cushioned by power.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The battle against AI misinformation

India is working towards Viksit Bharat 2047 with the objective of achieving economic growth, and in order to emerge as a technology leader. One of the major areas that India is concentrating on is the Artificial Intelligence (AI) front. However, a question that needs a definite answer is: what will India's policy be with reference to rapidly developing AI tools? While India's aspiration to attain the status of a global AI hub is commendable, Indian policies regarding AI tools should not only be looked at through the lens of development and economic growth, but also through the lens of growing misinformation and identity manipulation that could be spread through AI platforms.

Sundar Athreya H.

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N.S. Amogh Simha

Advocate, Madras High Court and Founder of Ashwin & Amogh Law Chambers, Chennai

A new era

ChatGPT recently launched its latest AI multimodal image generation model which has been successful in generating text-heavy images that could rival the work of a professional. Modern generative AI systems are now capable of producing highly sophisticated, text-heavy images akin to a professional newspaper or a scientific research paper. In most cases, these outputs are almost indistinguishable from authentic images taken with the help of a camera, or scanned originals. This model can pull up data from the web portal and provide details of the image with near accurate information.

Thus, through this launch, AI image generation has entered a new era. It is no longer a simple recreational model for a user to dabble with and post on social media platforms to follow a trend; rather, it poses serious concerns in the domain of cyber-crime, theft and digital deceit.

Social networking platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and even LinkedIn are flooded with AI-generated content often leaving users wondering about the veracity of the information they consume. The current version of ChatGPT and similar platforms allow such content to be released disproportionately on social media platforms. Since such platforms are primarily accessed by users through their mobile phones, which have limited screen sizes, the ability to verify such content becomes difficult and users may readily accept AI-generated images posted on these platforms as real.

For instance, a post on LinkedIn about publishing a new research paper, along with the image of the first page of the paper which might contain all necessary details such as the name of the journal and author credentials, might just be fake and non-existent. However, this can be verified by other users only if they check the database; most users are unlikely to fact-check such information.

Educational institutions and genuine academic publishers who strive to maintain originality face challenges as AI systems can fabricate mark sheets, degree certificates and research papers. The persuasive effect of AI-generated content significantly amplifies the possibility of misinformation and manipulation, to the extent where genuine photographs, videos and documents themselves may be dismissed as fabricated thus bearing a large impact on academics, journalism, and institutional credibility.

Various implications

Cybercrimes related to identity thefts have also multiplied in the recent past.

Additionally, celebrities have filed petitions before various High Courts of India seeking protection of their personality rights, and protection against the unauthorised usage of their likeness in image, voice and name using AI. Although various individuals have filed such cases, India has yet to formulate a sound legislative response to this emerging challenge. The implications of AI-generated content also pose risks in terms of evidence or pleadings that are submitted before courts using AI platforms. The Supreme Court and other High Courts, such as the Bombay High Court, have disparaged such usage and have also imposed costs on lawyers who adopt AI-generated arguments without verifying the submissions and cases cited therein.

While the country seeks to establish itself as a global AI leader, it must develop a robust legal framework that would effectively address the issues of misinformation, identity misuse and manipulation

Need for regulation

India therefore stands at a critical crossroads at present. While the country seeks to establish itself as a global AI leader, it must develop a robust legal framework that would effectively address the issues of misinformation, identity misuse and manipulation. The challenge at hand is to craft a balanced regulatory framework – one that encourages innovations and technological advancements while simultaneously ensuring accountability from platforms and safeguarding the authenticity of the digital ecosystem.

India's recently amended Information Technology Rules, 2026 mandate the disclosure of AI-generated/altered content throughout the video. They have also attempted to revamp the age-old intermediary liability framework with the stipulated timeline of three hours to remove synthetically generated content upon receiving a court order or government notification. They also mandate that personal complaints filed by users must be solved within 36 hours of its filing. This is a step in the right direction.

Further, there is a need to develop a code of ethics for AI platforms to prevent them from generating images/videos that would undermine trust in digital news. Beyond the quintessential legal and regulatory frameworks, there is a need for developing digital and AI literacy amongst the public at large. Unless users themselves develop the capacity to critically evaluate a particular digital content and verify the same before dissemination, these issues will continue to linger.

The tug of war within the Trinamool

Allegations over the role of I-PAC mask a larger succession battle within the party

STATE OF PLAY

Nistula Hebbar

Electoral defeat often follows a specific pattern – defiance, denial, implosion and acceptance. One can say that the Trinamool Congress is running true to type, with an earlier denial and defiance giving rise to a sort of implosion amidst its ranks, that may well lead to an acceptance of defeat.

However, the pattern in the specific case of the Trinamool and West Bengal is tweaked somewhat because of the presence of the political strategy company, the Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC), and the recriminations being laid at its door for the debacle faced by the party in the 2026 Assembly elections.

Sidelining of party cadre

After the Trinamool's loss in the recently concluded Assembly polls in West Bengal, the newly reappointed chief whip of the party in the Lok Sabha, Kalyan Banerjee, was the first to speak out over how I-PAC replaced the party cadre, and under the control of Abhishek Banerjee, Lok Sabha MP and nephew of former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, isolated the party from the people.

The next leader to speak out was long time Trinamool MP Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, who resigned as district president of Barasat after the loss, and significantly after she was replaced by Kalyan Banerjee as the chief whip. She too pointed to workers being sidelined, especially the older cadres who had joined the party as founding members.

Nearly three weeks after the results have been out, it is quite clear that there are many who felt uncomfortable with the role played by the I-PAC within the Trinamool.

One of the unwritten rules of being a consultant is to be project specific, arrive at the client's premises with no skin in the game, give a detached perspective on what is going right and wrong and help with implementing prescriptions for a short span of time. In the words of one political consultant: be like an Army that arrives, conquers and returns to its barracks, not like the police that is embedded in the locality. However, the I-PAC became a parallel structure within the Trinamool, advising on issues regarding the party, beyond 2021 when it first took on the party as its clients. They stayed on and became embedded in the party structure.

This was resented by the rank and file, not owing allegiance to Abhishek Banerjee, who have felt sidelined and unheard but feared falling afoul of whatever was happening between Mamata Banerjee loyalists and Abhishek Banerjee's attempt to control the Trinamool. "They (I-PAC) had absolutely no manners of working; they spoke very rudely. These workers of ours, they aren't servants. We don't pay them a salary; they work out of love for Mamata *didi* and love for the party. They treated people poorly, and their arrogance grew to such an extent that they eventually began treating us badly as well. They seemed to think they were at a higher authority than even the Prime Minister. I don't believe I-PAC was directly under her (Mamata Banerjee's) control, because I-PAC is a distinct entity," said Ms. Dastidar.

Succession games

The attacks on the I-PAC, and Mamata Banerjee's distancing from it is thus a pointer to the fight between the Trinamool's old guard and Abhishek Banerjee's succession manoeuvres. Mamata Banerjee's silence in the face of such allegations is instructive of the tug of war within the Trinamool.

Kalyan Banerjee and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar have been old loyalists of Mamata Banerjee when she first formed the Trinamool in the heydays of the Left Front's hegemonic control over the politics of West Bengal. In the last few years, especially since 2021, there has been a tug of war between Mamata Banerjee loyalists and the I-PAC-run Abhishek Banerjee camp. The painstaking labour required to gain organisational loyalty from leaders and workers was circumvented via the political consultancy firm. That this happened is not surprising, but that it took a defeat in the polls for it to be identified as a problem certainly is. Behind it likely lay the complications of loyalty, opportunity and the reluctance to pay the price of being a whistleblower. With elections now done, the costs are being counted and more importantly, through the attack on the I-PAC, the Trinamool Congress is now identifying a more problematic issue within the party – that of a succession war in leadership and its legitimacy.

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Women live longer but spend more of those years with illness

Despite decades of medical progress, the gap between how many healthy years women get and how many men get has not moved

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani

That women outlive men is a long-established fact that the data on Life Expectancy (LE) at birth have repeatedly shown. However, the healthy-life advantage that should have come with a longer life has barely moved in two decades for women. The shifts that happened during the COVID-19 pandemic in LE and Healthy Life Expectancy (HALE) – a metric that adjusts the LE by discounting the time spent with illnesses, disability, chronic pain and poor health – partially showed why women continued to lag behind in HALE.

While the world had largely recovered from the pandemic with global LE returning almost close to pre-pandemic levels by 2023, HALE recovered to 63 years, which is 0.5 years lesser than what it was in 2019. Female life expectancy stood at 76 years, compared to 71 for men. But the gap narrowed when healthy years were considered: women's HALE was 64 years, compared to 62 for men **(Chart 1)**. In 2000, women's LE was 4.8 years higher than men while the gap in HALE was just 2.3 years. By 2021, it had narrowed slightly, to 2.2. Despite a generation of medical progress, the gap between how many healthy years women get and how many men get has not moved. This pattern points to a deeper structural divide in global health: women survive longer, but spend more of those years living with illness, pain and untreated conditions.

Across the world, men die at significantly higher rates from cardiovascular disease, lung disease, accidents, violence and suicide. Lower mortality from ischaemic heart disease alone adds 0.63 healthy years to women's lives. Reduced deaths from stroke contribute another 0.31 years, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (0.26), road injuries (0.32), interpersonal violence (0.17) and suicide (0.12) **(Chart 2)**. As per the World Health Organization, all these lower mortality factors together should have given women a 3.85-year advantage in HALE.

However, higher morbidity among women offsets 1.56 years of that advantage. Women carry a disproportionately high burden of pain disorders, gynaecological diseases and mental health conditions. Back and neck pain alone reduces women's healthy lifespan by 0.44 years; depressive disorders cost 0.21 years and anxiety 0.16. Many remain underdiagnosed. The size of the female health gap varies sharply across WHO-defined global regions **(Chart 3)**.

COVID-19 should have widened the HALE of women over men as the latter died at substantially higher rates than women throughout the pandemic. Lower female mortality from COVID-19 and pandemic-related causes alone gave women a 0.89-year HALE advantage over men, which was bigger than the contribution from ischaemic heart disease **(Chart 2)**. However, the advantage did not widen since the pandemic also erased two decades of progress on the mental health conditions that disproportionately erode women's healthy years.

The disadvantages could be more pronounced in India. As per the WHO Global Health Statistics Report 2026, over half of Indian women (53.7%) of reproductive age are anaemic, nearly double the global rate. One in every five partnered Indian women has faced intimate partner violence in the past year, almost double the world figure. Nearly a third of Indian households spend more than 40% of their discretionary budget on health, putting sustained treatment out of reach for most **(Chart 4)**. These conditions may not dominate mortality charts, but they profoundly shape everyday life, limiting mobility, productivity, and financial independence.

Long and painful

The data for the charts were sourced from the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Health Statistics Reports for 2025 and 2026. The values for 2023 are approximate as per global health estimates for 2023 referred in the 2026 report

CHART 1: The healthy life expectancy (HALE), life expectancy (LE) and the gap between the two over the years and between genders

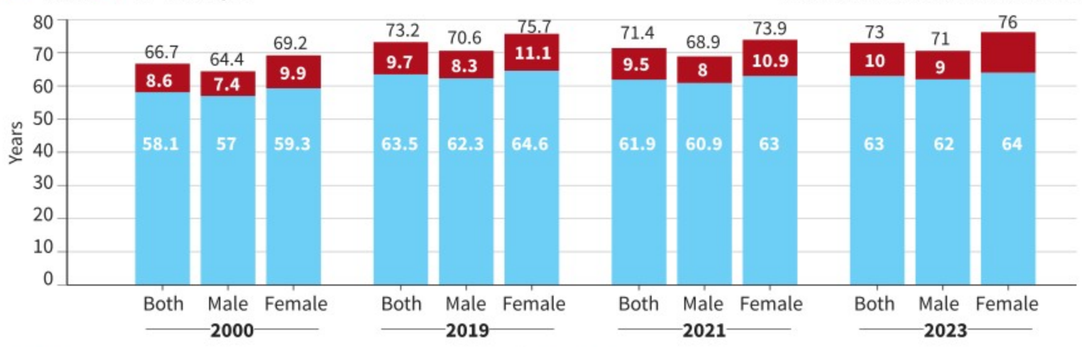


CHART 2: The chart shows the key mortality and morbidity conditions (as per 2019 data) that contribute positively and negatively to women's HALE over men

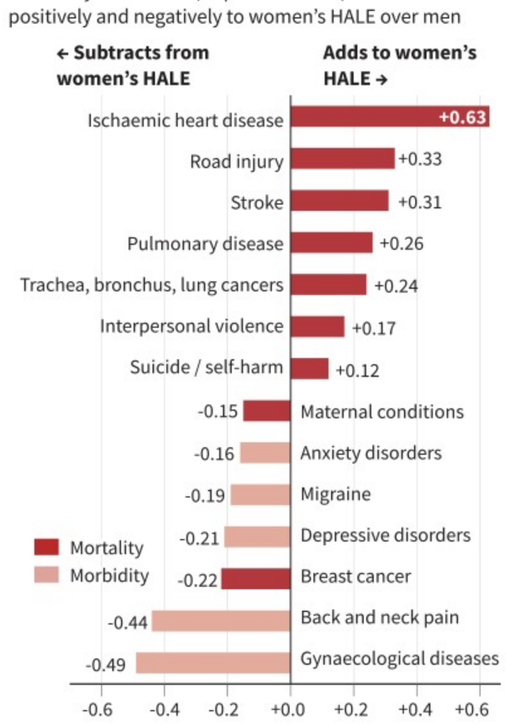


CHART 3: The chart shows the difference between the HALE of men and women in different global regions as defined by the World Health Organization

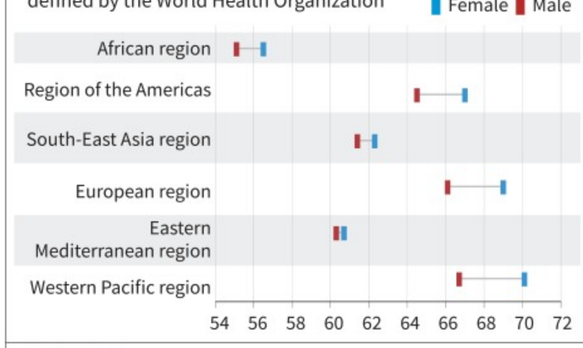
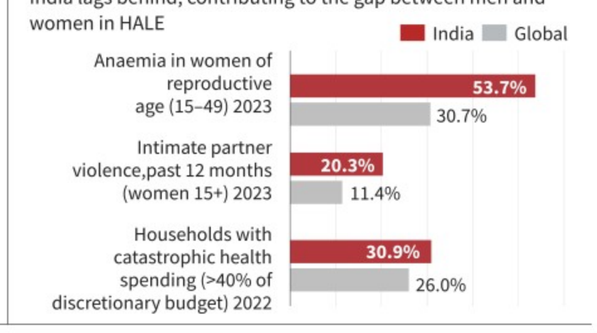


CHART 4: The chart shows three of the key indicators, where India lags behind, contributing to the gap between men and women in HALE



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 28, 1976

Socialist states want greater role for gold

Nairobi, May 27: The socialist group of countries has suggested that the role of gold should be enhanced in international liquidity in order to normalise the international monetary situation and bring about "gradual abolition and banning of monopolistic position held by one or several national currencies".

In a position paper on money and finance circulated to delegates, attending UNCTAD IV meeting here, socialist countries say since SDRs (special drawing rights) do not represent real value they cannot replace gold as the basis of an international monetary system. It however supports the view that developing countries should get part of SDRs as aid so long as the SDR system exists.

On debt problem, the paper says: "Equitably advantageous" economic co-operation between socialist States and developing countries does not give rise to debt problem. In view of basically different technical and economic relations with developing countries socialist States consider it "unfounded to appeal to them to share responsibility" of eliminating consequences of colonialism and of trade and monetary crisis of capitalist economy, the paper adds. European Common Market countries yesterday agreed on a joint position on debts owed by developing countries, one of the major stumbling blocks at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) here, EEC delegates said.

But they were still deadlocked on the other main area of disagreement, the issue of financing buffer stocks and commodities to stabilise prices. Delegates said the Common Market position was likely to be accepted by other developed non-communist nations. But they said the position fell well short of demands by developing countries which want a general rescheduling of debts including write-offs for the poorest nations.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 28, 1926

Entry into U.S.A

Washington, May 27: President Coolidge has signed a Bill permitting aliens who served with the American forces during the world war to enter the United States regardless of quota restrictions.

From Page One

SC upholds SIR, says it is EC's constitutional duty

The authority must decide their cases before the next Vidhan Sabha or local body elections. Their names should be restored to the rolls if they are found to be citizens.

The second phase of the SIR, covering 51 crore voters in 12 States and Union Territories, including West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, had commenced even as the challenge to the exercise in Bihar, was pending in the Supreme Court.

The Bench also directed that persons domiciled in Bihar, whose names may have been wrongly deleted on the grounds of absence, death, duplication or shifting, could challenge the EC's decision before the courts. The final Bihar electoral roll published on September 30 last year contained 7.42 crore electors, compared with 7.89 crore when the SIR was notified on June 24, 2025.

The court said the SIR did not supplant the Representation of the People Act (RP Act) or the Registration of Electors Rules of 1960. Rather, it breathed life into the constitutional mandate of Article 324 (EC's power to conduct and supervise elections).

Cogent justifications

The court said the EC had "cogent justifications" to conduct the SIR, namely the passage of more than two decades since the last intensive revision, large-scale additions and deletions over that period, rapid urbanisation, migration, and the resulting possibility of repeated or defective entries. The court said the electoral roll was not a static document and must evolve in response to changes in population, residence, and eligibility.

It rejected the petitioners' argument that the SIR did not have an empirical foundation. Chief Justice Kant justified that large-scale migration, non-reporting of deaths, and duplication of entries were matters of "common administrative experience". The Bench said the EC's supervisory authority under Article 324 was a "continuous wellspring of power" encompassing every facet and stage of the electoral machinery to ensure the sanctity of the democratic process.

The court refused to believe that the SIR caused suffering. It said appropriate safeguards were in place or introduced to mitigate hardship and arbitrary exclusion.

ED searches Pinarayi's houses; protests erupt

The raids prompted the CPI(M) to strongly attack the Congress, accusing the leading partner of the INDIA bloc of playing second fiddle to the BJP-led Centre's "fondness" for subverting the ED to target leading Opposition figures and strong-arm political adversaries into switching allegiances.

Locations searched also included the residence of former Tourism Minister and Ms. Veena's husband, P.A. Mohamed Riyas, in Kozhikode, and the houses of the mining company's promoters.

As per the ED, several incriminating records, accounts, digital evidences, and investments were found from premises belonging to Ms. Veena and those associated with the CMRL. The agency has frozen about ₹18.36 crore in around 242 accounts identified during the searches. The evidences recovered are being analysed, it said.

The raids, coming a day after the Kerala High Court gave the ED the go-ahead to probe the alleged financial transactions, marked a major escalation of a long-running enquiry into allegations that Ms. Veena's now defunct firm, Exalogic Solutions, had received monthly retainers from CMRL between 2017 and 2021 without rendering any tangible service. Following the raids, a tense stand-off ensued between CPI(M) leaders and the police, who cordoned off a party office in the city, claiming those responsible for the "attack" on the ED team had taken shelter there.

Cong. 'respectfully disagrees' with Supreme Court on SIR

The top court's judgment 'raises more questions than it answers', the Opposition party says; legal sanction may grant *prima facie* legitimacy, but it 'cannot cure malice in implementation', it adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday said it "respectfully disagreed" with the Supreme Court order upholding the legality of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, asserting that the judgement "raised more questions than it answered".

"The Supreme Court has given a finding on law. We can respectfully disagree with the verdict," Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said in a statement posted on X.

He alleged that the Narendra Modi government has been facing an "unprecedented wave of anger for its governance failures" and the SIR has become an exercise in exclusion.

"...unable to face the electorate in a fair contest, it has now opted to manipulate the lists of who can and cannot vote to skew the balance in its favour. Broadly speaking, this is what the SIR is for," Mr. Ramesh said.

> Was it not this very Supreme Court that directed the EC to publish lists of deleted voters they wished to keep hidden; that made them publish reasons for deletion which they should have done in the first place
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress leader

'Selective deletions'

He claimed that voters in Bihar and West Bengal were selectively deleted *en masse* and then made to face an appeals process "that is arbitrary and ultimately meaningless".

Mr. Ramesh said the Election Commission (EC) was in such haste that the Supreme Court itself had to put "guardrails".

"Was it not this very Supreme Court that directed the EC to publish lists of deleted voters they wished to keep hidden; that made them publish reasons for deletion which they should have done in the first place; and that mandated Aadhaar be accepted when the EC tried to refuse," he asked.

Mr. Ramesh alleged that the SIR process was "rife with infirmities and based on mala fide" and added that legal sanction may confer *prima facie* legitimacy, but it "cannot cure malice in implementation".

Addressing a press conference, Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Singhvi said the top court had itself underlined "gaps, omissions, errors and deficiencies" in the EC's handling of the exercise, which later required judicial intervention and petitions from political parties and civil society groups.

He pointed out that the court had observed that citizenship could be determined only by the competent authority, primarily the Ministry of Home Affairs, and not by the EC. He questioned whether the court should have taken stronger note of the fact that voters were excluded on citizenship-related grounds.

He also criticised the timeline for the exercise, describing it as an "excessively constricted and telescoped time period".

SC verdict on SIR a defeat for Cong. and its allies: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday hailed the Supreme Court verdict on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, describing it as a defeat of the Congress and its allies on "constitutional" grounds.

At a press conference, BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said, "All attempts to accuse and defame every institution of democracy in order to hide their own inactivity and political incompetence have today been proven futile and ineffective on the floor of the Supreme Court".

He said the Opposition, particularly the Congress, had suffered a defeat, politically, morally, and constitutionally, in view of the "crushing" electoral losses in Bihar and West Bengal in the recent Assembly elections.

And also that they failed in their attempt to instigate "anarchy and disorder".

Claiming that the Congress had been losing polls because its leadership was absent from the ground, he said the party lacked a strong grassroots organisational structure.

The BJP, on the other hand, constantly nurtured and energised its cadre networks through meetings at various levels, Mr. Trivedi said.

'Absurd accusations'

"Even during elections, they do not work seriously. Then they go outside, make absurd statements, and think they will win elections," he said. Mr. Trivedi alleged that "The issue is not just that their allegations on SIR have been proven baseless. The matter is far more serious... their agreements are linked to China. Their ideology is linked to Europe. Their propaganda is linked to America. Their family ties are linked to Italy, and their voter connections are linked to Bangladesh."

SC forwards to EC plea to time-stamp VVPAT slips

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Election Commission to consider a petitioner's representation to time-stamp Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips to record the exact moment an elector cast his vote on polling day.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant directed the Supreme Court Registry to forward the petition and entire case records filed by businessman, Nalla Suresh Reddy, to the Election Commission.

Mr. Reddy submitted that time-stamping of the VVPAT slips would be panacea for recurring controversies over "last-hour voting surges" and booth-level discrepancies. It would be a systemic addition to enhance electoral transparency.

"We have seen widespread doubts about a sudden jump in polling after 5 p.m. All that would be put to rest by time-stamping VVPAT slips," senior advocate Devadatt Kamat submitted for the petitioner.

Demography panel chief says subject is new to him, will consult experts

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The head of the first-of-its-kind panel to study demographic changes in the country said on Wednesday that the government had authorised the committee to invite demographers and experts who can weigh in on the subject and help prepare the report.

Retired Supreme Court judge Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar, 83, told *The Hindu* that the government's decision to name him as the chief of the High-Level Committee on Demographic Changes (HLCDC) came as a surprise. "I have been living in Jabalpur since 2016, after I retired as the Lokayukta of Madhya Pradesh. Even I was surprised when they announced my name. I will reach Delhi soon and call a meeting of all other panel members," he said.

He said demography and illegal migration were new subjects for him, and the scope of the study was vast, for which they would decide on a procedure soon. He added that his earlier judgments in the Supreme Court included the confirmation of the death sentence for Afzal Guru, convict in the 2001 Parliament terror attack, in 2005, and the 2007 judgment on defining copyright limits on court judgements. He comes from a third-generation family of lawyers and retired from the apex court in 2008.

New fault lines: Home Ministry says demographic changes are not restricted to border areas and are affecting urban centres. FILE IMAGE

Other members

Census Commissioner Mritunjay Kumar Narayan; retired IAS officer Durga Shanker Mishra, who served as the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh; retired IPS officer Balaji Srivastava, who retired as Director-General of Bureau of Police Research and Development; and Shamika Ravi, who is part of the PM's Economic Advisory Council; are the members of the committee. The Joint Secretary (Foreigners-I), Home Ministry, is the member secretary of the Committee. The panel's office will be located in Delhi and it is expected to submit its report in a year.

'A farce committee'

Manoj Kumar Jha of the Rashtriya Janata Dal questioned the composition of the committee. "What a farce. A committee constituted to examine 'demographic change' appears to have no demographer. A committee on demographic change without demographers is like a 'medical board' without doctors; heavy on administration, light on knowledge," Mr. Jha said on X.

The Union Home Ministry said on Wednesday that demographic changes in the country were not restricted to border areas alone and were affecting "urban centres, industrial corridors, tribal regions, and other socially and economically sensitive areas", which impacts public service delivery, local governance, resource distribution, and social cohesion.

In a resolution published in the Gazette, which notified the composition of the committee, the Home Ministry said the panel would also recommend a well-organised and permanent operational system for the legal, fair, and time-bound identification, detention, and deportation of illegal immigrants already residing in the country.

The constitution of the committee was announced by Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday, almost a year after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that a demography mission was in the works.

EC will always be with voters: CEC after SC upholds SIR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the Supreme Court upheld the legality of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls done by the Election Commission of India (EC), Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Wednesday said the EC "was, is and would always" be with voters.

"The first step for nation building is voting. Therefore, every citizen of India who has completed 18 years of age should become an elector and should always vote in accordance with the Constitution, electoral laws, rules and instructions issued there in," the CEC said in a video message.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the SIR as an exercise done by the EC in furtherance of the Constitutional principle of free and fair polls. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant dismissed the petitioners' view that SIR was a backdoor move to conduct citizenship screening in the name of cleaning up the poll rolls.

UPSC releases provisional answer key of Prelims exam

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has for the first time released the provisional answer key for the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2026.

Candidates who have appeared for the examinations can submit their representations, if any, until 6 p.m. of May 31 through a dedicated online portal, the 'Online Question Paper Representation Portal (QPRep)' at *upsconline.nic.in*, the UPSC said.

The final answer key, however, would be released only after the declaration of the final result, in accordance with the Commission's existing practice, it said.

AMCA fighter project moves ahead as Centre issues RFP to shortlisted firms

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence on Wednesday issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the indigenous fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme to three shortlisted bidders, marking a major step forward in India's push for self-reliance in advanced combat aviation.

The shortlisted entities include the Larsen and Toubro-Bharat Electronics Limited combine, Tata Advanced Systems, and the Bharat Forge-BEML consortium. A top official in the Ministry of Defence confirmed the development to *The Hindu*. "It is a huge step towards the Make in India initiative of the Centre to develop an indigenous fifth-generation fighter jet," the official said.

Next-gen project: An Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft fighter jet designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency. K. MURALI KUMAR

Interestingly, the State-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. has been kept out of the process, sources said.

After the shortlisted companies submit their responses to the RFP, the selection process is likely to be completed within four to five months based on technical and commercial evaluations.

Under the programme, the government plans to build five prototypes of the AMCA, a stealth fighter aircraft being developed to meet the Indian Air Force's long-term operational requirements.

The selected private defence entity will work in partnership with the Aeronautical Development Agency, functioning under the Ministry of Defence, for the development of the prototypes.

The AMCA programme is considered one of India's most ambitious indigenous aerospace projects aimed at developing a fifth-generation stealth combat aircraft with advanced avionics, supercruise capability, and reduced radar signature.

On May 15, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone for the ₹15,803-crore AMCA infrastructure project in Andhra Pradesh's Sri Sathya Sai district.

Last year, the Defence Minister approved the AMCA Programme Execution Model, under which the Aeronautical Development Agency will execute the project through industry partnership.

Supreme Court Collegium recommends four HC judges, woman advocate to top court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, in consecutive meetings held on May 22 and 27, recommended the appointment of four High Court Chief Justices and one woman senior advocate as apex court judges. The resolution was published late on Wednesday.

The Collegium has proposed the name of senior advocate V. Mohana, a lawyer practising in the Supreme Court, as a judge of the top court. Ms. Mohana was one of the leading counsel in a series of cases highlighting structural career inequalities for women officers in the armed forces. Currently, the Supreme Court has only one woman judge, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who is also part of the Supreme Court Collegium.

The High Court Chief Justices recommended for the top court Bench are Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana; Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court; Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court; and Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Collegium's choice of judges reflects a focus on regional and gender representation. Justice Nagu's parent High Court is Madhya Pradesh, Justice Chandrashekhar is originally from the Jharkhand High Court, Justice Sachdeva's parent High Court is Delhi and Justice Palli is from the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The last woman judge appointed to the apex court was in August 2021. Ms. Mohana, if appointed, would be the first after a gap of over five years. The recommendations come in the wake of a recent increase in the total strength of judges, including the Chief Justice of India, to 38 from the earlier 32.

The court would see more vacancies with the retirement of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Justice Pankaj Mithal in June.

ED to be restructured, cadre strength to be boosted

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Finance Ministry sanctioned a sweeping cadre restructuring of the Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday, expanding its current strength by almost 60% from 2,029 to 3,256 posts.

The agency's executive cadre will nearly double from 1,229 to 2,288 posts.

The most dramatic changes have been approved in the executive cadre, which forms the operational backbone of the ED. While special directors remain unchanged at seven, additional directors have increased from 10 to 24; joint directors from 28 to 49; and deputy directors from 148 to 267.

The sanctioned strength of assistant directors has been revised from 255 to 531; enforcement officers from 355 to 606; and assistant enforcement officers from 425 to 803, nearly doubling the sanctioned posts. These three posts are key to investigations.

CBI arrests two more in NEET-UG paper leak case

Latur-based doctor, physics teacher among those held; total number of arrests made in case has gone up to 13; agency has conducted searches at 49 locations, seized incriminating documents

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday arrested two more persons in connection with the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), 2026 paper leak case. Those held include a Latur-based doctor and a member of the physics faculty of a coaching institute in Pune, officials said.

The agency arrested Manoj Shirure for allegedly playing a key role in facilitating three students, including the son of Renukai Chemistry Classes (RCC) coaching institute founder Shivraj Motegaonkar, to get the chemistry questions from NEET paper setter P.V. Kulkarni, they said. Mr. Motegaonkar, who ran the RCC in Latur, was recently arrested in the case.

The agency also arrested Tejas Harshadkumar Shah, a physics teacher at Dr. Abhang Prabhu Medical Academy (APMA), a Pune-based coaching centre, the officials said.

The accused in the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case being produced at Rouse Avenue Court in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

On May 12, the NTA cancelled the exam for admissions amid allegations of leak of the question paper

Mr. Shah allegedly received the leaked physics questions for the test from an arrested accused, Manisha Havaldar, they said.

The total number of arrests made in the paper leak case went up to 13, the officials said.

Probe on

"The investigation to unearth the chain as well as the conspiracy in this case is ongoing. The CBI has so far conducted searches at 49 locations and seized several incriminating documents, laptops, and mobile phones," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

Manisha Waghmare, a beauty salon owner, was arrested on May 14 for allegedly facilitating the distribution of the leaked chemistry and biology questions. The others arrested are Dhananjay Lokhande from Ahilyanagar and Shubham Khairnar from Nashik in Maharashtra; Mangilal Biwal, Vikas Biwal, and Dinesh Biwal from Jaipur, Rajasthan; and Yash Yadav from Gurugram, Haryana.

On May 12, the National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the NEET-UG, held on May 3 for medical admissions, amid allegations of a paper leak. A re-test has been scheduled for June 21.

(With PTI inputs)

Conversation on complex politics of Kashmir to be held at The Hindu Huddle

The Hindu Bureau

Adding early momentum to a power-packed line-up of expert speakers at The Hindu Huddle, 2026 will be a thought-provoking discussion with Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Abdullah, a multi-decade veteran of the complex politics of a Union Territory that has been the focus of intense policy attention, comes to the Huddle in the wake of persisting challenges in Jammu and Kashmir in the aftermath of last year's Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, which led to arguably the most consequential military skirmish between nuclear-armed neighbours India and Pakistan in recent times.

Mr. Abdullah, a two-time Chief Minister of J&K, entered politics setting a record as the youngest member of the Lok Sabha when he joined the Lower House of Parliament in 1998 at the age of 28. With successful stints in the Union government completed, including as Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and later for External Affairs, Mr. Abdullah turned his focus to his home State of Jammu and Kashmir, rising to prominence in the leadership of the National Conference.

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Co-powered by Government of Telangana
In association with Khaja Bandanawaz University

Since then, he has made a name for himself as an outspoken Chief Minister representing the voice of the people of J&K.

Today, as J&K still simmers with unresolved questions on addressing the demands of Kashmiri youth, halting cross-border terrorism and pursuing the right policy mix to spur growth in the Valley while fostering peace built on respect for human rights, Mr. Abdullah's voice is one that speaks for the very heart of India's great experiment with federalism, for the rights of the people of J&K. He will be engaged in candid dialogue with Dr. Narayan Lakshman, Opinion Editor, *The Hindu*, and Curator, The Hindu Huddle, in a session titled "Beyond the Valley: The role of Kashmir in great power politics", at 10.20 a.m. on June 5.

The event is presented by the Sami-Sabinsa Group as the Presenting Partner. The event is co-powered by the Government of Telangana and held in association with Khaja Bandanawaz University.

The event is further supported by Bank of Baroda, Larsen & Toubro, Apollo Hospitals, IIM Sirmaur, ICFAI Group, TAFE, Wizzmoni, Associate Partners; Casagrand, Realty Partner; Toyota, Luxury Car partner; Amity University Bengaluru, University Partner; Harrow International School Bengaluru, Education Partner; Meghalaya Tourism, State Partner; and NDTV 24x7, TV Partner.

Readers can register for the event by scanning the QR code. Limited seats available.

IIT team to conduct a 'full check-up' of CBSE tech ecosystem

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Following multiple complaints by Class 12 students about discrepancies in the evaluation of their answer sheets, a four-member team with two experts each from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), Madras and Kanpur will conduct a "full check-up" of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)'s IT ecosystem, and submit a confidential report to the Board, V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT, Madras, told *The Hindu*.

Over four lakh students have requested scanned copies of 11 lakh answer sheets amid complaints of blurry scans, wrong totalling, mismatched or missing sheets, and a pass rate of 85.2%, the lowest since 2019. The expert team will provide recommendations to the CBSE on how to carry out processes, including re-totalling of marks and re-evaluation of questions, Mr. Kamakoti said.

It will provide recommendations on re-totalling of marks and re-evaluation of questions

While the CBSE introduced the 'Onscreen Marking System' for digitised answer scripts with the intention that expert evaluators from across India could evaluate the papers, this had caused some problems which CBSE had admitted, Mr. Kamakoti said.

On portal crashes

The expert team will also look into the reasons for the multiple crashes of the CBSE's portal for applications for re-evaluation.

Examining the IT ecosystem was a "complex" process, he said. "Depending on the complexity of the systems, the team will take multiple days to arrive at recommendations and submit a confidential report to the CBSE," Mr. Kamakoti said.

Company used for CBSE on-screen marking linked to controversies, alleges Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday alleged that the company, COEMPT, which carried out the on-screen marking (OSM) exercise for students of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), was earlier known as Globarena and had figured in controversies linked to Telangana Board exams in 2019 and 2023.

Mr. Gandhi has demanded a judicial inquiry and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged scam.

"The company that did the OSM for your exams was actually called Globarena. And Globarena has carried out this scam twice before in Telangana, once in the Board exam in Telangana in 2019 and after that again in 2023," Mr. Gandhi said in a video statement addressing students.

Rahul Gandhi

"The same OSM-based errors were responsible for death by suicides of 23 young Indians in Telangana," he added.

'Question selection'

Mr. Gandhi posted the video on his X handle and raised questions about the company's selection. He also asked what, precisely, was the nature of the relationship between COEMPT's management and the Union government. He alleged that the company's track record was publicly known and yet, for "some hidden" reason, the CBSE chose it for the assignment. "It took us 30 seconds to figure out this company was earlier called something else. I am absolutely certain that the people in CBSE and the Government of India were aware of this company," Mr. Gandhi said, urging students and parents to share the video and seek answers.

"Why and by whom was COEMPT given this CBSE contract? Which procedures were circumvented to give this contract?" the Congress leader asked.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh, citing a media report claiming that the CBSE ignored the advice of its governing council to first implement OSM as a pilot project, demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. "If it [the CBSE] had listened, the unnecessary suffering of lakhs of students would have been prevented," he said.

SC to hear petition on CBSE's three-language rule in July

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to examine if the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)'s three-language rule, set to be effective from July 1 for Class 9 students, has placed unreasonable pressure on resources and children.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the court was more concerned about the logistical and factual challenges of implementing this policy in the face of a dearth of teachers and books.

When senior advocate Kapil Sibal said the policy violated principles of federalism and the right of choice, the Bench said the argument could be turned on its head to submit that learning more languages would work to benefit the spirit of federalism.

"Somebody can say learning three languages strengthens the federal structure," Chief Justice Kant addressed Mr. Sibal.

Inadequate resources

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, on the Bench, said the focus of the petition was "that the implementation was unreasonable... That books are not there, adequate teachers are not there".

The court issued notice to the Union government, the CBSE, and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on a petition challenging the mandatory three-language rule.

The Chief Justice asked if the policy warranted any exam in Class 10. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, also for the petitioners, submitted there would be an "internal assessment".

"Your final-year certificate would reflect it... you have to show you have passed it. You won't get Class 10 certificate unless you pass it," Mr. Rohatgi submitted.

The court initially listed the case for June 15. However, Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati successfully urged the court to list the case in July.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
S.V. Gosamrakshana Shala, Tirupati — e- TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. TTD-30/28/2026-SV GOSHALA dt: 21.05.2026
e-Tenders are invited for procurement of Pasteurized Toned Milk through "e-tender" for a period of one year. Tender documents can be downloaded by login to **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** and select on current tenders and click on more and then select "Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams at department field and "S.V.Gosamrakshana Shala Dairy Farm in the circle / Division field and click on search button. **Download Start date 29-05-2026 from 5.00 PM and Last date for submission of tender is 15-06-2026 up to 10.30 AM.** For further details contact Mobile No.:**9281413626.**
TTD-40021(31)/1/2026-PRO SEC(Adv.No.58) Date:27-05-2026 — **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
O/o CE (Civil), 7th floor, LIC Jeevan Deep Building, Lal Kothi, Jaipur
E-TENDER NOTICE: TN-05(RVU2627WLOB00357)
Online Tenders are invited for Design, engineering, supply, construction of all civil & miscellaneous works for infrastructure development of 2000 MW RVUN'S solar park including land leveling/dressing, roads & road lights, boundary fencing, gates, water intake, reservoir & distribution infrastructure, drainage system, green belts etc. At village Bodana, tehsil-bap, dist. Phalodi (Rajasthan). Tender details are available on websites **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**
Raj.Samwad/C/26/3588 — RVUN/PR-4398 — Chief Engineer (Civil)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
Brief E- TENDER NOTICE: CORRIGENDUM-I (SALE EXTENSION)
No: e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/CON/268704(I)_268707(I) Dt: 27.05.2026
Refer to Tenders No 1. CMG/C/CON/268704 dated. 06.05.2026 Name of work: **"Augmentation of normal Power Distribution at Wind Profiler, SDSC SHAR (Civil Works)"** (Est. cost **Rs. 16 Lakhs**); and
2. Tender No CMG/C/CON/268707 dated 06.05.2026 Name of work: **"Sewage Collection Well at Pulicat Nagar Housing Colony Sullurupeta, SDSC SHAR"** (Est. cost **Rs. 34 Lakhs**);
Sale period extended up to 02.06.2026
Interested tenderer may visit **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

KANNUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
E-Tender – Duty Free Outlets
E-Tenders are invited by Managing Director, KIAL for Selection of Concessionaire to Design, Develop, Set Up, Operate, Maintain and Manage the Duty Free Outlets at Kannur International Airport
For more details, please visit –
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Bid Submission Last Date:
17 June 2026, 1500 Hrs
E-Tender ID: 2026_KIAL_853177_1

Ph. No. 06670-235504; E_Mail: serwbpt@yahoo.com
GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA.
Bid Identification No.:- BPT/Online-05/2026-27 Date: 18.05.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR ROAD WORKS IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e - Procurement
1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Road Works under MMSY Schemes in the District of Kalahandi and Nuapada.**
2. No. of Works : **As per NIT**
3. Location details : **Kalahandi and Nuapada District**
4. Estimated Cost : As per NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per NIT.
6. Cost of tender paper : **Rs.10,000/-** per set
7. Other details :

Availability of tender for online bidding		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From	To		
30.05.2026 11.00 A.M.	11.06.2026 5.00 P.M.	10.06.2026	12.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site "**www.tendersorissa.gov.in**"
25001/252/2627 — **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna**
OIPR-25001/25102/1/26-27/0004

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त बारां
क्रमांक : **636** दिनांक : **21/05/2026**
निविदा सूचना संख्या 04/2026-27
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **सड़क एवं पुलिया निर्माण कार्य** हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के एए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
NIB Code :- PWD2627A0706 UBN No. :- 1- PWD2627WSOB03116, 2- PWD 2627WSOB03118 3- PWD2627WSOB03120
इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेब साईट http: //eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।
DIPR/C/9194/2026 — अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त बारां

DOCTOR HARISINGH GOUR VISHWAVIDYALAYA, SAGAR (M.P.)
Website: www.dhsgsu.edu.in
(NAAC A+ Grade Accredited Central University)
ADMISSION IN POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS: 2026-27
Online applications are invited for admission to the Postgraduate Programs (Session: 2026-27) in the following subjects:
(1) B.Lib.I.Sc. (Bachelors in Library and Information Science) (2) LL.B. (3 Yr.) (3) LL.M. (4) M.Com. (5) (M.B.A. Business Management, Human Resource Management, Finance Management, Marketing Management, Healthcare and Hospital Management, Business Analytics) (6) M.Lib.I.Sc. (7) M.Ed. (8) M.Pharma. (9) M.Tech. (Applied Geology) (10) M.S.W. (11) Performing Arts (M.P.A.) (12) M.C.A. (13) Fine Arts (M.F.A.) (14) PG-Diploma (Labour Studies) (15) PG-Diploma (Geoinformatics).
Master of Arts (M.A.): (1) Ancient Indian History Culture & Archaeology (2) Anthropology (3) Criminology (4) Mathematics (5) Economics (6) Education (7) English (8) Geography (9) Hindi (10) History (11) Linguistics (12) Hindustani Music (13) Percussion Music (14) Philosophy (15) Political Science (16) Public Administration (17) Sanskrit (18) Sociology (19) Urdu (20) Yogic Science (21) Rural Development (22) Journalism & Mass Communication (M.J.) (23) Indian Knowledge System (24) Psychology.
Master of Science (M.Sc.): (1) Anthropology (2) Botany (3) Chemistry (4) Geography (5) Mathematics (6) Physics (7) Zoology (8) Yogic Science (9) Environmental Science (10) Artificial Intelligence & Big Data Analytics (11) Psychology (12) Microbiology (13) Forensic Science (14) Biotechnology.

Commencement of online registration	26.05.2026	Contact Details:	
Last date of registration	10.06.2026	Ph. 07582-297123	Email: **admission@dhsgsu.edu.in**

● For admission schedule, latest updates regarding admission, please visit the university website **www.dhsgsu.edu.in**. regularly everyday. **Registrar**

boyanika
ODISHA STATE HANDLOOM WEAVERS COOP. SOCIETY LTD.
BHUBANESWAR-751003, ODISHA
No. 1263 — **Dt. 26.05.2026**
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF AGENCIES FOR PROVIDING DIFFERENT KINDS OF SERVICES
Odisha State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd. (Boyanika) invites EOIs from Agencies to provide different kinds of services for Head Office, Bhubaneswar and Sale Branches inside & outside of the State.
The registered Agencies having good track record and eligibility criteria laid down in the EOI Documents to provide different services as specified in the EOI document may submit their offer along with all supporting documents on or before **24.06.2026 (up to 5:00 PM)** addressed to the Managing Director, Odisha State Handloom Weavers Coop. Society Ltd. (Boyanika), Boyan Bhawan, PJN Marg, Kharavela Nagar, Unit- 3, Bhubaneswar-751001 by registered post / speed post / courier only. Boyanika shall not be responsible for any postal delay. The technical bid will be opened on **Dt.30.06.2026 at 11:00 AM**, and financial bids of technically eligible bidders will be opened on **04.07.2026 11:00 AM**. For details, please visit website **www.boyanika.com**.
Sd/- Managing Director Boyanika
31001/30/2627 — OIPR-31001/31004/1/26-27/0010

INBRIEF

New SARTHAK PDS scheme to strengthen food security

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved the SARTHAK Public Distribution System (PDS) scheme for a period of five years at a cost of ₹25,530 crore to improve food security. The scheme will use advanced technologies in PDS operations across India. "Right from the selection of beneficiaries to the movement of foodgrains, to getting proactive feedback from citizens, to reducing transportation distance – all those activities have been approved with an outlay of ₹25,530 crore for five years," Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Assam House passes UCC Bill amid dissent by opposition

The 126-member Assam Assembly on Wednesday passed The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026, which proposes a common civil framework governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, and live-in relationships in the State. The legislation, the third such law after similar enactments in Uttarakhand and Gujarat, excludes the Scheduled Tribes (STs), who constitute 12.45% of Assam's population. Opposition members argued that the legislation was unnecessary and had been introduced without consulting the minority organisations. Suggesting amendments, they pointed out that excluding STs from its purview did not make the UCC 'uniform'.

Centre seeks transfer of Transgender Act cases to SC

The Centre urged the Supreme Court on Wednesday to transfer petitions challenging the constitutionality of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026 from about four different High Courts to the apex court. The Supreme Court is already seized of several petitions challenging the 2026 Act, but it is is only partially working during June. The petitions in the SC have criticised the controversial 2026 law of removing the right to self-identity. The 2026 Act requires a government-appointed medical board's favourable recommendation for a District Magistrate to certify someone as a transperson.

NCW calls for legislation to codify Muslim personal law

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has submitted a report on the rights of Muslim women in India to key central Ministries. The report recommends a comprehensive legislation to codify Muslim personal law related to marriage, divorce, maintenance, custody, and inheritance, strengthening provisions for maintenance during and after marriage, and mandatory registration of marriages. It also sought the establishment of gender-sensitive dispute resolution mechanisms with adequate representation for women and accountability to civil courts, expansion of legal aid systems, helplines, and targeted awareness campaigns.

Health expenses dip as govt. spend rises

The out-of-pocket expenditure as a share of the total health expenditure has been calculated as 43.4% in 2022-23, as against 64.2% in 2013-14; the Ministry credits the results to operationalisation of Ayushman wellness centres; the share of private health insurance has also increased, report says

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Concurrent with the increase in government health expenditure, the out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) share in total health expenditure has declined by 21%, from 2013-14 till date, noted the National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates for India 2022-23, released by the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday .

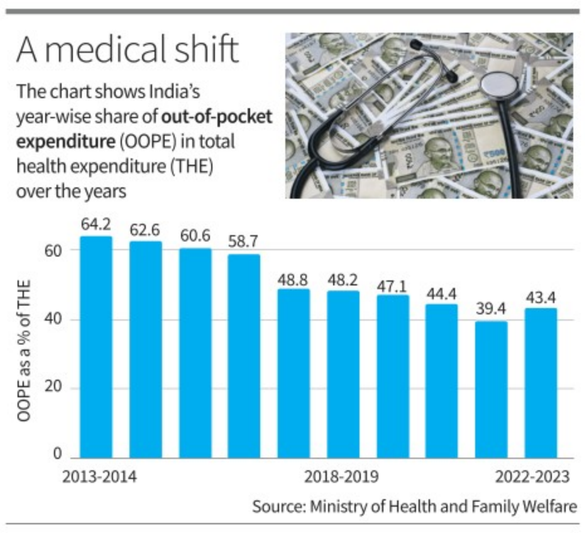
The OOPE as a share of the total health expenditure has been calculated as 43.4% in 2022-23, as against 64.2% in 2013-14.

"This declining trend of OOPE indicates the improved access to health services, leading to reduced financial burden on the households," said a senior Health Ministry official. He added that this is also the impact of operationalisation of more than 1.8 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandir wellness centres across the country, providing preventive and curative healthcare services closer to the community.

These centres provide free services across 12 expanded packages, including reproductive and child health, communicable/non-communicable diseases, free drugs/diagnostics services, teleconsultations, and preventive care through wellness sessions.

"These measures have reduced the episodes of sickness. On in-depth analysis, it has been observed that the purchase of pharmaceuticals, including health supplements, vitamins, protein and other supplements [from wellness centres], is the main driver of OOPE in the current estimates," the Ministry said.

The NHA 2022-23 is the 10th report on health expenditure estimates prepared by the National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat (NHATS), National Health Systems Resource Centre, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, using the System of Health Accounts (2011) framework.



The part reasons of OOPE in current estimates is purchase of pharmaceuticals and supplements from govt. centres

The report indicates an increase in the share of government health expenditure in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It has risen from 1.15% in 2013-14 to 1.43% in 2022-23.

Similarly, health expenditure's share in general government expenditure has increased from 3.78% to 4.89% over the same period.

In per capita terms, government health expenditure has increased nearly 2.7 times, from ₹1,042 to ₹2,786 between 2013-14 and 2022-23.

To address the emergency COVID pandemic situation, the government increased the health expenditure significantly to 1.84% of GDP in 2021-22 towards managing the pandemic situation given these additional spending by the government as a one-time measure, OOPE as a percentage of total health expenditure during this period also declined to 39.4%.

Inter-temporal comparisons also reveal a positive trend in the growth of social security expenditure. Spending here increased substantially from 6% in 2013-14 to 9.9% in 2022-23.

The share of private health insurance has also increased, from 3.4% to 9.2%, clearly indicating improved health-seeking behaviour due to awareness.

Critical sectors must have quantum-safe encryption: task force

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Failure to act within current window may result in compromise of confidential data, says report

A task force constituted by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) has recommended that India's critical sectors – government, defence, power, telecom, transport, and banking and finance – begin a phased switch to post-quantum cryptography (PQC), warning that the encryption now protecting the country's most sensitive data could one day be broken by quantum computers.

Failure to act within the current window, the report warns, "may result in irreversible compromise of confidential data, erosion of trust in digital governance, exposure of financial systems, and forced emergency migration under crisis conditions".

PQC refers to a new generation of encryption algorithms designed to run on ordinary computers but engineered to withstand attacks from future quantum machines, which are expected to be able to crack the public-key cryptography that today secures everything from bank transactions to government communications. Quantum computers, unconstrained by the binary logic underlying conventional computers, can in theory, perform demanding tasks in a fraction of the time. However, they have yet to prove themselves in practice.

The task force is chaired by Rajkumar Upadhyay, chief executive of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), with Manindra Agrawal, Director of IIT Kanpur, as co-chair. Its report was prepared under the National Quantum Mission (NQM).

The NQM, approved by the Union Cabinet in April 2023, carries a ₹6,003.65-crore outlay through 2030-31 and operates four thematic hubs at the IISc and the IITs to advance quantum computing, communication, sensing and materials.

The report sets out a tiered migration calendar. Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) sectors are placed on an accelerated track: laying foundations by 2027, migrating high-priority systems by 2028, and achieving full PQC adoption by 2029. Other enterprises are given a slightly more relaxed schedule.

Heatwave grips central and northwest India as monsoon stays offshore

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Large swathes of central and northwestern India remained in the grip of a punishing heatwave on Wednesday, with the southwest monsoon yet to make landfall over Kerala – its customary point of entry into the subcontinent.

Banda in Uttar Pradesh recorded the season's highest temperature with the mercury touching 47.4 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Maximum temperatures ranged between 45 degrees Celsius and 47 degrees Celsius over Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Vidarbha (Maharashtra), and between 40 degrees Celsius and 45 degrees Celsius across most of the rest of the country, barring Northeast India, the western Himalayas, the west coast and interior Tamil Nadu.

PM's appeal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in an X post, urged citizens to stay hydrated, carry water while stepping out and remain alert to signs of heat exhaustion such as dizziness, nausea, and extreme fatigue. He cautioned that children, the elderly and outdoor workers were especially vulnerable, and appealed to people to keep bowls of water outside homes and shops for birds and animals.

With temperatures crossing 45C in several States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed people to stay hydrated. V. RAJU

The IMD said heatwave to severe heatwave conditions had prevailed in isolated pockets over eastern Uttar Pradesh and western Rajasthan. Heatwave conditions were also recorded over parts of eastern Madhya Pradesh, southern Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh, western Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha and Chhattisgarh. The weather office said such conditions were likely to continue over central and northwest India for the next two to three days before abating from May 29.

For the monsoon, the IMD said the southwest monsoon had advanced further into parts of the Arabian Sea, the Lakshadweep area and the Bay of Bengal as on May 27. Its arrival over Kerala – for which the IMD had set a forecast window around May 26 – remains within the four-day margin of error built into the official prediction, with conditions favourable for further advance over the next two to three days.

The season ahead is clouded by the prospect of an El Nino, the Pacific warming pattern that typically suppresses monsoon rainfall over India. As of mid-May, the equatorial Pacific was rapidly transitioning into El Nino conditions.

SC allows Manipur to appoint DGP from outside State cadre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed a Manipur government plea to appoint its Director-General of Police (DGP) from outside the State cadre.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant passed the order on an application moved by the State government which flagged the past incidents of ethnic and civil unrest in the State.

The government said there was a need for a "competent" senior officer to head the State Police.

"The difficulties we find as Central government is that, from among the eligible candidates, we are not able to find the person of that competence," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta submitted.

The incumbent in office, Rajiv Singh, an IPS officer from the Tripura cadre, was appointed Director-General of Police in Manipur in June 2023 and his tenure is coming to an end on May 31, 2026.

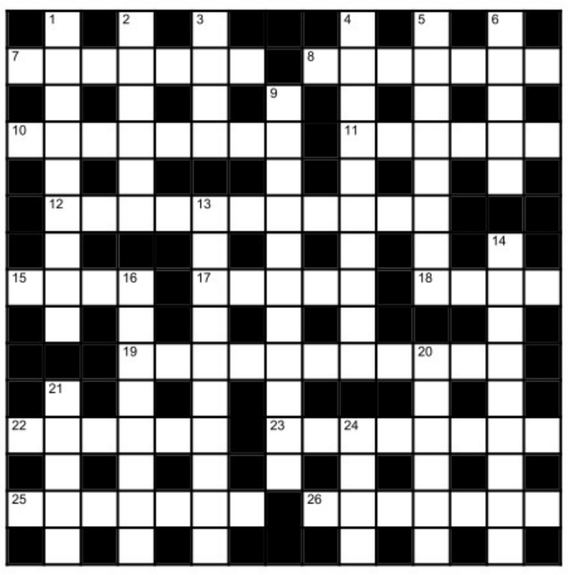
" The application is allowed. The State of Manipur is permitted to appoint the Deputy Inspector General of Police from outside Manipur Cadre," the court recorded in the order.

TH CROSSWORD + 14805

(set by Vidwan)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Perverted pest being exposed as world's biggest paedophile ringmaster (7)
8 Modest about press berth (7)
10 American cola cup supply for a Mexican resort (8)
11 Planet without active atmosphere, goes around our star (6)
12 Unhinged pure, endless joy, left suspended, held and put out again! (11)
15 One going into club to lure (4)
17 German justice, occasionally hard for their neighbours (5)
18 Bar unopened always (4)
19 A victory for new system? Bad in retrospect for a famous Italian Statesman! (11)
22 Zero grams lost at the end of it! (6)
23 Needs air conditioning for what is left for driver on Indian roads! (8)
25 Fabricators quoted 50% for a collection of spirits (7)
26 Plain term describing creativity (7)

Down

1 Great animal feed for new foodie (9)
2 Raise pets! (4-2)
3 Evil follows with purpose (4)
4 King's Hospital urgency! Cuban revolutionary versus Soviet leader! (10)
5 Love reading about fabric (8)
6 Can America fake? (5)
9 No Christian converted in an ancient Greek City (11)
13 It shoots by capturing ordinary day America, one missed originally (4,6)
14 I'd a dinner organised for someone like Pinarayi Vijayan? (3,6)
16 Party MP! A numbskull! Stuffs eardrum! (8)
20 Rubbish result? (6)
21 Bold search for binding (5)
24 Friends quietly moving down two places to a mountain range (4)

SUDOKU

		7			5		8	9
						6		3
			9		4			
	4			1		7		
	1		8	3	7		6	
		9		4			5	
			6		3			
8		6						
3	9		7			4		

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

A	C	T	O	R	■	A	L	M
L	■	I	■	A	S	■	I	■
A	P	R	O	P	O	S	■	A
B	■	E	■	■	■	U	■	■
A	L	D	E	R	■	A	S	S
S	■	L	■	A	G	■	U	■
T	H	Y	■	T	E	E	N	S
E	■	■	■	A	■	M	■	T
R	E	S	E	T	■	E	R	A
■	■	A	■	A	■	N	■	I
T	E	N	E	T	■	T	O	N
O	■	J	■	T	■	■	■	A
T	S	U	N	A	M	I	■	B
E	■	A	■	T	■	O	■	L
M	I	N	U	S	C	U	L	E

A	T	E	R	■	A	T	E	R
■	I	■	E	■	A	■	E	■
A	R	N	I	C	A	S	■	■
■	T	■	T	■	I	■	■	■
A	L	I	G	N	■	■	■	■
L	■	C	■	■	■	■	■	■
B	A	S	A	L	■	■	■	■
L	■	■	■	A	■	■	■	■
A	D	S	■	■	■	■	■	■
C	■	B	■	T	■	■	■	■
K	E	Y	E	D	■	■	■	■
S	■	I	■	■	■	■	■	■
B	A	T	H	M	A	T	■	■
U	■	A	■	C	■	■	■	■
B	E	L	C	H	■	■	■	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	7	5	4	3	9	2	8
5	9	2	1	8	6	7	3	4
4	3	8	7	9	2	6	1	5
7	1	9	4	5	8	3	6	2
3	4	6	9	2	7	8	5	1
8	2	5	3	6	1	4	9	7
6	5	1	8	7	9	2	4	3
2	7	4	6	3	5	1	8	9
9	8	3	2	1	4	5	7	6

FAITH

Convincing arguments

Sri Vallabha Pandian was one of the Pandya kings who ruled over Madurai. One night, when the king went round his capital city, he noticed a man lying on the pyol of a house. He didn't look like a citizen of the Pandya kingdom. The man told the king that he was from Kasi and was on his way to Rameswaram. Since the man was a scholar, the king asked him to give some advice. The man said, "Since it rains for four months, work hard during the remaining eight months. Save for your old age when you are young. Do what you must now for liberation."

The king asked his spiritual adviser Selva Nambi what the man's words meant, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. Selva Nambi suggested that a prize be announced to anyone who could satisfactorily answer the king's questions. A bag of gold coins was tied to a pole. If the bag dropped from the pole when a person finished his arguments, then he was to be considered the one who had given the right answer. Vishnuchitta in Srivilliputtur was serving Lord Vatapatrasayee by making garlands for him. When the people of his town urged him to go and win the gold, he hesitated. But the Lord appeared in his dream and ordered him to go to the Pandya court. When Vishnuchitta spoke in the Pandya court, the Vedas themselves asked him to quote them. He even argued on the basis of that which he had not studied, because the Lord was with him. Through convincing arguments, Vishnuchitta established that the only One who could grant moksha was Lord Narayana. When he did this, the bag of gold dropped down. Vishnuchitta was honoured by the king and came to be known as Periyazhvar.

INBRIEF

U.S. team to visit India in June to finalise interim pact details

A team of U.S. negotiators, led by U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, will be visiting India to "finalise the details" pertaining to the Interim Agreement between the two countries and take forward the negotiations on a broader Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), the Ministry of Commerce announced on Wednesday. "To carry forward the discussions, the U.S. team led by the Chief Negotiator will be visiting India from 1-4th June 2026," the ministry said in a statement.

Hyundai Motor India hikes prices by up to ₹12,800

Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) on Wednesday said it will hike prices of its vehicles by up to ₹12,800, depending on the model and variants. The price revision is attributed to a combination of various cost escalations, it added. This is in continuation of HMIL's announcement on April 8, 2026, when the car maker in a regulatory filing announced a 1% hike across its portfolio from next month, citing various cost escalations, effective next month. PTI

Income Tax dept. enables online ITR-2 filing for AY27

The Income Tax Department on Wednesday enabled online filing of ITR-2 for the assessment year 2026-27 on the e-filing portal. "Online filing and Excel utility for ITR-2 for AY 2026-27 are now enabled on the e-filing portal," it said in a post on X. ITR-2 is filed by individuals and HUFs who do not earn any income from business or profession, but have receipts from capital gains. The department had, on May 15, enabled online filing of ITR-1 and ITR-4 for AY 2026-27. PTI

Organised online gaming comes under GST regime, states SC

Bench declines challenges against levy on actionable claims arising from organised online gaming and fantasy sports under betting and gambling

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

No game: Even if online gaming involves skill, there is substantial money involved and an uncertainty at stake on the outcome. AP

The Supreme Court on Wednesday confirmed the constitutional validity of bringing organised online gaming activities with money stakes under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, in a judgment, declined challenges raised against the levy of GST on actionable claims arising from organised online gaming activities and fantasy sports under the betting and gambling head.

The court reasoned that even if online gaming involves skill, there was substantial money involved and an uncertainty at stake on the outcome.

"Online gaming activities, including fantasy sports and other games played on digital platforms, involving staking upon uncertain outcomes, constitute betting and gambling for the purpose of GST framework," Justice Mahadevan pronounced for the Bench.

The Bench also upheld the statutory ban on games like Rummy and Poker, played online for a wager, bet, money or other stakes. The court said the States had a duty to maintain public tranquillity and public health, considering the growing problems of addiction and deaths due to financial losses suffered online. The court said the Tamil Nadu law was based on empirical data collected through a panel chaired by a former Madras High Court judge.

The court rejected the online gaming companies' argument comparing online games of "skill" with horse-racing. They had argued that the apex court had categorised horse-racing as a game of skill.

Justice Pardiwala responded in the judgment that horse-races and wagers upon them were heavily regulated by the State, and there cannot be a comparison between the two.

"In the present case, betting on online games of skill is posing a threat to the State and wellbeing of the masses. Such betting would not enjoy immunity merely because it is taking place in a game of skill," the court said.

The court said that while it may be true that games of skill may not be covered by the expression 'gambling', it was wrong to say that betting on games of skill would be out of the competence of the State legislature.

"The earlier decision on horse-racing has no relevance to the case at hand. The entire process of horse racing and wagering was highly regulated and organised, which is very different from the uncertainty and veil of invisibility associated with online gaming activities, whether of skill or chance," the court said. The court allowed the appeals filed by the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka while setting aside the decisions of the Madras and Karnataka HCs striking down the laws banning online gaming activities.

AI, IndiGo cut over 250 domestic daily flights as ATF turns costlier, demand dips

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India, its low-cost subsidiary Air India Express, and IndiGo will together withdraw around 250 daily domestic flights from June amid rising aviation turbine fuel (ATF) costs, a move expected to further drive-up airfares.

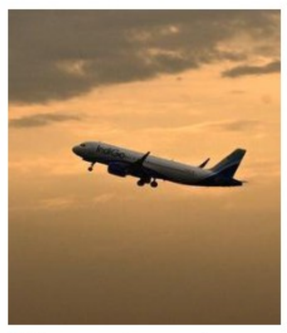
Airlines are also reporting weakening demand and subdued travel sentiment in what is already considered a traditionally weak season as travel demand typically softens from mid-June after the summer holiday period concludes.

Air India will cut 22% of its domestic flight schedule during June and July. The airline currently operates around 3,600 weekly domestic flights, or nearly 500 flights a day, meaning the reduction will translate into roughly 110 daily flights being withdrawn.

IndiGo, which operates nearly 2,200 daily flights, will reduce its domestic capacity by 5%, amounting to around 110 flights a day.

Air India Express, meanwhile, will cut nearly 10% of its approximately 340 daily flights on domestic routes.

The three airlines together enjoy 90% of the market share, in other words nine out of 10 air travellers fly with one of them. "These adjustments are driven by the sustained impact of high fuel prices on overall operations. Air



Airlines are also reporting subdued travel sentiment in a traditionally weak season

India will continue to monitor demand and operating conditions closely," Air India said in a statement.

IndiGo sources said a 5% cut was due to softer demand as travellers cut back on discretionary spending on top of it being a lean travel season following the summer holiday rush.

A 25% rise in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices for domestic flights and nearly a 100% increase for international operations due to the West Asia conflict has sharply raised operating costs for airlines, pushing airfares up by 40-50% on several routes. Airlines had also imposed a fuel surcharge of ₹400-450 in response. Industry observers said the latest capacity cuts could drive fares even higher.

Meanwhile, airlines have also started restoring capacity on West Asia routes as airspace restrictions ease across most destinations in the region, with Kuwait remaining among the few exceptions.

Oil firms absorbing ₹550 cr. daily losses amid disruptions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Public-sector oil-marketing companies (OMCs) are absorbing losses of nearly ₹550 crore from the sale of diesel, petrol and LPG, by not passing on the full impact of rising international crude prices to retail consumers, the government said on Wednesday.

The issue figured prominently during the sixth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) on West Asia, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Kartavya Bhawan-2 in New Delhi.

The government said OMCs were absorbing losses to protect retail consumers from the volatility in global energy markets.

Further, authorities also flagged concerns over industrial users allegedly diverting purchases to retail outlets to take advantage of the protected fuel prices.

Officials noted instances of black marketing by some dealers, prompting intensified enforcement measures by the Ministry, oil companies and State Governments.

Further, according to the government, private OMCs have observed an approximately 38% decline in sale of diesel in the ongoing month - from both retail and bulk consumers - owing to their higher prices.

Thus, the demand has shifted to public-sector OMCs having comparatively lower prices.

TCS bags SKF's AI-led transformation deal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

TCS would hasten intelligent transformation across SKF.

Rickard Gustafson, CEO, SKF, a Swedish firm making bearings, seals, lubrication systems, said his company, in partnership with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), would build operational and AI foundations setting new standards for precision and customer value across the industry.

"The next decade of industrial manufacturing will be defined by how deeply companies integrate AI into how they design, produce, and serve. SKF intends to lead that shift," said Mr. Gustafson as per a TCS filing.

"This is a long-term commitment, made between two companies that share a conviction about where industrial manufacturing is heading," Mr. Gustafson added.

TCS said the contract would accelerate "intelligent transformation" across SKF's global operation, adding, 'through this agreement, TCS would enable SKF to build a future-ready digital enterprise, leveraging AI to re-imagine industrial manufacturing.'

'ONGC's new-well gas to spur profitability'

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) expects gas output n from new wells to continue rising and increasingly contribute to spur profitability, Arun Kumar Singh, Chairman of the state-owned utility told investors in an analyst call.

New-well gas constituted 17% of output volume and 21% in terms of revenue in ONGC's nomination gas portfolio in FY 2026.

"Bigger story in our basket is new-well gas [in terms of volume] will be on the rise," he said, adding, "It will be between 25% and 30% this year." It will continue to rise thereafter.

Further, he informed there had been 'a big jump' in new-well gas output.

It had risen to over 9 million metric standard cubic metre (mmscm) since April 1 in FY27 with another 3 mmscm to be added via newer projects.

New-well gas effectively is priced at 12% of crude oil prices thus, making it more profitable. On profitability, Mr. Singh explained, "At crude price of $90 [per barrel], we can get [new-well gas price] of $10.8 [per MMBtu]."

Mr. Singh told analysts ONGC's overall gas ouput is expected to climb 7-8% in the current fiscal year.

"Every year 7-8% increase you should expect in gas [output]," he stated, elaborating this was on the back of Daman Upside Development project, DSF block and completion of opening of KG 98/2 wells.

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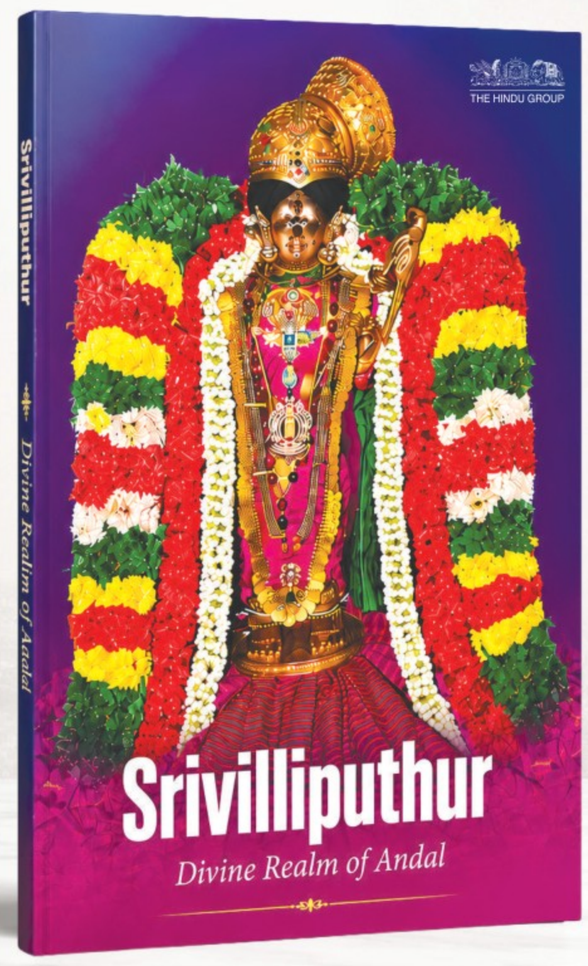

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LIC unveils two new joint life insurance policies

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced two new plans New Jeevan Sathi-Single Premium and New Jeevan Sathi-Limited Premium.

Both are non-par, non-linked, individual, savings plans. These are joint life plans which offer a combination of savings and protection, LIC said after CEO and MD R. Doraiswamy launched the new plans.

The joint life plans cover a married individual with his/her spouse in a single policy. The minimum basic sum assured is ₹3 lakh.

Indian pharma set to gain via Oman CEPA

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Ahead of the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) implementation, pharma exporters body Pharmexcil highlighted the opportunities that await Indian pharmaceutical, AYUSH and wellness sectors.

"One of the immediate benefits under the CEPA framework would be implementation of zero tariffs on Indian pharmaceutical products, including active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and formulations, from the date of operationalisation," Director General Raja Bhanu informed the members.

The Department of Commerce will aid consignments scheduled during the first half of June with the support of senior officials, he said, urging the members to submit details of consignments for Oman for Pharmexcil to coordinate and represent, in the event of any issues. The CEPA is likely to be implemented from June 1.

Oman's pharmaceutical market, being heavily import-dependent, was valued at $302.84 million in 2024 and expected to reach $473.71 million by 2031, a CAGR of 6.6%.

India's pharmaceutical exports to Oman increased 22% in 2024-25 to almost $70 million.

Maharashtra, Bengaluru fuel supplies stable: OMCs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

State-owned oil-marketing companies denied reports of fuel shortages in Maharashtra and Bengaluru through social media announcements.

"BPCL would like to reassure customers fuel supplies across Maharashtra are stable and well managed with continuous replenishment and regular dispatches across the State," said BPCL in a social media post.

Similarly, Hindustan Petroleum said "there is no overall product shortage situation at HPCL outlets."

JERUSALEM

Israel says it killed the new head of Hamas armed wing in Gaza strike

AFP

Israel said on Wednesday it had killed the new head of Hamas's armed wing in Gaza, Mohammed Odeh, after killing his predecessor earlier this month despite an ongoing ceasefire. Odeh is the fourth head of the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades Israel claims to have killed since the start of the Gaza war. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump Board of Peace's official Gaza fund is empty, says source

AFP

U.S. President Donald Trump's Board of Peace has no cash in its official Gaza reconstruction fund, despite member countries pledging billions of dollars, a source familiar with the board said on Wednesday. Since the board was set up, its fund has received no money from donors, the source said. AFP

BUDAPEST

Hungary's Parliament votes to remain a member of the ICC

REUTERS

Hungary's Parliament voted on Wednesday to remain a member of the International Criminal Court, reversing a decision by the previous government of Viktor Orban to withdraw from the global tribunal. The Bill was passed largely along party lines, with 133 voting to approve, 37 votes against and five abstentions. AP

ROME

Spanish PM sees 'no reason' to withdraw support for predecessor

REUTERS

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Wednesday there was "no reason" to withdraw support for his predecessor Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who is under investigation for corruption. Mr. Zapatero was placed under official investigation last week for influence peddling and other crimes. AFP

Overthrowing Islamic republic is still the goal of U.S. and Israel: Iran

U.S. and Israel 'plan to intensify economic pressure, create religious and ethnic divisions, and conduct sabotage operations', claim Iranian officials; IRGC says return to war with U.S. was unlikely, but adds that it stood ready to respond to any attack

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's Intelligence Ministry said on Wednesday that the goal of the United States and Israel remained to overthrow the Islamic republic and break up the country.

"The enemy is now pursuing through other means the objective of overthrowing and partitioning the country, which it openly declared at the beginning of the recent war but failed to achieve through military attack," the Ministry said in a statement carried by Iranian media.

The remarks come amid exchanges between Tehran and Washington to draw up an agreement to end the war which broke out on February 28.

Shadow war: Motorists drive vehicles near a political billboard along Enghelab Square in central Tehran on Tuesday. AFP

The Ministry said it received intelligence that the U.S. and Israel would seek to "intensify economic pressure", create divisions in the country among religious and ethnic groups and carry out sabotage and other "terrorist operations". It added that such actions would involve large-scale "smuggling of various weapons, ammunition and illegal communication tools".

'Low possibility'

Meanwhile, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said that a return to war with the U.S. was unlikely, but warned that the Islamic republic stood ready to respond to any attack.

Mohammad Akbarzadeh, deputy political chief of the IRGC Navy, said that while the likelihood of returning to "war is low because of the enemy's weakness, the armed forces are lying in wait with full magazines".

U.S. President Donald Trump asserted on Wednesday that Iran is "negotiating on fumes" and insisted that November's midterm elections won't make him rush into a deal.

Iranian state TV said earlier in the day reported that a draft outline of a memorandum of understanding with Washington included a commitment to lift the naval blockade on Iran, restore traffic in the Strait of Hormuz and withdraw U.S. forces from the Gulf.

The White House called the report a "complete fabrication".

'DRC facing catastrophic collision of Ebola and war'

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The World Health Organization chief warned on Wednesday that conflict raging in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo was dramatically complicating efforts to rein in a deadly Ebola outbreak and urged an immediate ceasefire.

"Eastern DRC now faces a catastrophic collision of disease and conflict with the Ebola outbreak in Ituri province outpacing the response," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X.

The WHO has recorded 10 confirmed Ebola deaths and 220 suspected deaths in DRC since mid-May, while also recording a further 900 suspected cases since Kinshasa declared the outbreak on May 15.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

The United Nations' health agency said the true spread of the virus was probably much wider. Experts have said it was probably circulating for some time.

Mr. Tedros stressed that the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola that is spreading in the DRC had "no approved vaccine nor treatment".

"Stopping this Ebola transmission depends entirely on humanitarian access," he said.

But insecurity is a huge obstacle in eastern DRC, which has been plagued for three decades by conflict involving a litany of armed groups.

State services in rural areas of Ituri province have been largely absent for decades.

Mr. Tedros lamented that clashes were "driving mass displacement, pushing exposed contacts into overcrowded camps and severing critical containment corridors".

"Frontline workers are risking everything, while attacks on health facilities make tracking cases and their contacts nearly impossible," he warned.

"We plea to prioritise human survival above everything else."

Under U.S. pressure, Cuba appeals for international help

Agence France-Presse
UNITED NATIONS

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla asked the international community for urgent help to prevent disaster in his country, which is under a U.S. energy blockade, in a speech to the UN Security Council on Tuesday.

"I call on the international community to mobilise to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe that could be imposed through arms or the fuel blockade," Mr. Rodriguez said.

He added, "now should be the time for solidarity with Cuba".

The day after the Castro indictment was announced, Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned Cuba that the United States was laser-focused on changing the communist system.

Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla

On Tuesday, Mr. Rodriguez called the indictment politically motivated and denied U.S. allegations that Cuba poses a threat to U.S.

Israel declares most of south Lebanon areas 'combat zones'

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Israel on Wednesday declared all areas south of Lebanon's Zahrani River, which runs roughly 40 km from the border, "combat zones" and urged residents to evacuate ahead of strikes against Hezbollah.

The first such sweeping warning since an April 17 ceasefire came as Israel's military launched broad raids on the country's south and east, and as Hezbollah said its fighters clashed with Israeli forces beyond an Israeli-declared "yellow line" in the south.

Israel this week vowed to intensify operations in Lebanon and said it was expanding ground operations there, a move that comes ahead of talks on Friday between Lebanese and Israeli military delegations at the Pentagon and a new round of direct negotiations next week aimed at ending the hostilities.

"We advise the residents of southern Lebanon to evacuate to the north of the Zahrani River, as all areas south of the river are considered combat zones," the Israeli military said on social media, warning it would "act against it with great force" against Hezbollah.

It had earlier issued evacuation warnings for the southern city of Nabatieh, and Tyre.

Quad says ports for Fiji; Ditoka says no specific project yet, talks ongoing

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

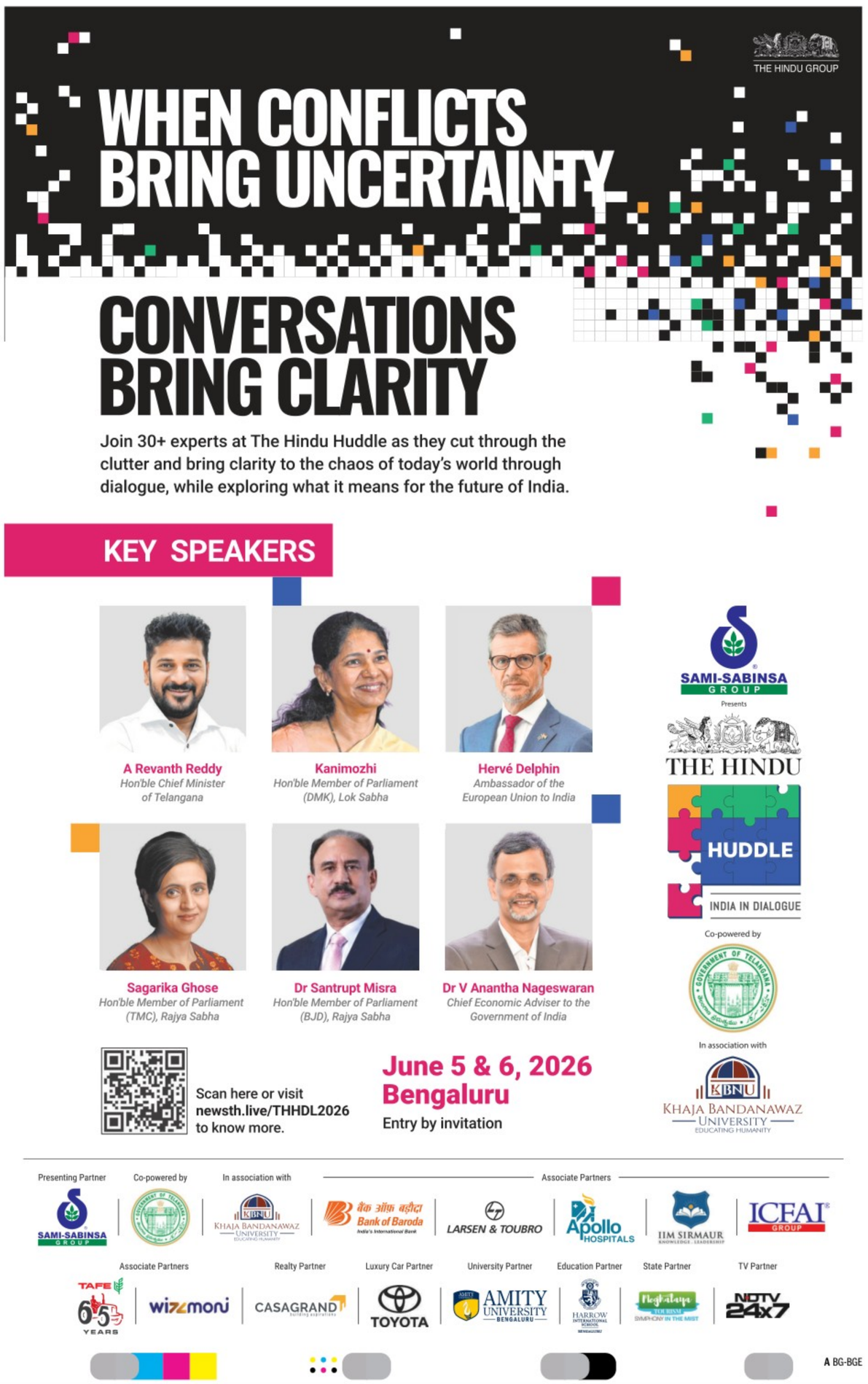
A day after the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting here declared that the grouping would build port infrastructure in the Pacific island of Fiji, Fijian Foreign Minister Sakiasi Ditoka said that no relevant port project has been "agreed" at the moment, though Fiji is in talks with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact of the United States regarding port infrastructure. In response to questions from *The Hindu*, Mr. Ditoka said in a written response that Fiji's approach to developing its infrastructure is driven by plans to create better facilities that will support its commercial ambitions.

"No specific port project has been identified or agreed at this stage. The process is at the Root Cause Analysis phase, which will then move into Concept Notes and, subject to agreement, potentially to more detailed feasibility and design work," said Mr. Ditoka, indicating that the declaration of a port project made here by Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong as well as U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio requires considerable paperwork before it can materialise.

The announcement on Fijian port development by the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting has drawn attention to the broad-spectrum relations that China has built with several southwest Pacific island nations, most importantly Fiji, which will mark fifty-one years of diplomatic relations with China this year. China's ambassador to Fiji, Zhou Jian, said in 2025 that his country had emerged as the third-largest trading partner for Fiji. The government of Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has broadened conversation on Chinese investments in infrastructure across Fiji's major islands, and China has developed at least twenty projects in Fiji in the recent past. Fiji has maintained the "One-China" policy, which has helped further ties with Beijing.

Sakiasi Ditoka

On March 2, the U.S. Department of State announced that Fiji was set to receive a grant of $12 million from the MCC for feasibility studies of projects before further consideration. Referring to that, Foreign Minister Ditoka said, "The focus areas identified are ports and the business regulatory environment."



DAZZLING DUO

Sooryavanshi and Jaiswal put on second-highest stand in a playoff

R.V. MOORTHY

RR openers Vaibhav Sooryavanshi recorded the second-highest partnership in an IPL playoff match as they put together 125 runs against SRH in the Eliminator in New Chandigarh. Former CSK batters M. Vijay and Michael Hussey hold the record, having stitched a 159-run stand against RCB in the 2011 final.

PEAKING WHEN IT MATTERS

We are going in the right direction at the right time: RR pacer Archer

R.V. MOORTHY

We are going in the right direction at the right time. We are on the right path. The team that gets [more] wickets in the PowerPlay usually wins. We just stuck to our plans and lengths. Against a team like SRH, the more runs we have to defend, the better it is for us as bowlers — Jofra Archer, RR pacer.

MORE THE MERRIER

Wanted to try and push the game beyond GT: RCB director of cricket

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

They (Gujarat Titans) have got a very high-performing top-order. We wanted to try and push the game beyond them as best as we could. This IPL has been quite freakish. There's a lot of big scores being chased. So, you never feel that safe anymore — Mo Bobat, RCB director of cricket.

CANDID

Titans lucky to have another shot at a spot in final, admits Phillips

SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

If you lose by one or two runs, you feel like you could have found something. When you get nowhere near, you can say that you were just not on it. We are lucky enough that we get another bite of it (a spot in the final), which is fantastic — Glenn Phillips, GT all-rounder, on the team's defeat to RCB in Qualifier 1.

Sooryavanshi, Archer carry Royals into Qualifier 2

The teen prodigy smashes 97 off just 29 balls with five fours and 12 sixes as the Rajasthan side makes 243 for eight; the pacer accounts for the top three in his opening spell to dash Sunrisers' hopes

IPL-19

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

Jaws were on the floor. Eyes were rubbed in disbelief. Deafening roar erupted from the stands.

The reason was who else but Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, the 15-year-old boy wonder with a booming bat swing who has taken to the bright lights of Indian cricket like a fish to water.

Transcending conventional logic ever since he set foot in the Indian Premier League last year, the Rajasthan Royals opener was at it again with his pyrotechnics in the Eliminator against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium here on Wednesday. He made a mockery of the Pat Cummins-led attack, smashing 97 off just 29 balls with five fours and 12 sixes.

Post the Sooryavanshi carnage, Dhruv Jurel took charge with a 21-ball 50. But considering that RR was 136 for one after 10 overs, an eventual total of 243 for eight was a clear case of the other batters misfiring.

Nevertheless, RR bowled out Sunrisers for 196 to celebrate a 47-run win, setting up a meeting with Gujarat Titans in Friday's Qualifier 2.

Jofra Archer's three-wicket burst at searing pace was riveting. The RR spearhead accounted for the trio of Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Travis Head in a fiery opening spell as SRH was reduced to 57 for four.

When Heinrich Klaasen departed leg-before to Yash Raj, the writing was firmly on the wall.

On a flat pitch, SRH could do little but bow to Sooryavanshi's brilliance. When he smashed his seventh maximum, he overhauled Chris Gayle's record (59) for the most sixes in a single edition.

The teenager has bludgeoned 65 maximums this season. He nearly broke the Jamaican's mark for the fastest century in IPL history too. Sooryavanshi attempted to dispatch Praful Hinge for the fourth six of the eighth over for the milestone. But his slash found R. Smaran at deep third.

It took the distraught youngster an eternity to leave the field to rousing applause.

As the night drew to a close, the applause was for the RR players to collectively soak in.

Commanding display: It was the Sooryavanshi show before Archer broke the back of the SRH batting line-up. R.V. MOORTHY

Sizzling Sooryavanshi

The records the Royals' teenaged sensation racked up during his whirlwind knock

1 Equalled Raina's record for the fastest half-century (16b) in a playoff match

1 Became the first to amass 600-plus runs with a 200-plus strike rate in a season

4 Hammered 10 or more sixes in an innings for the fourth time, going level with Gayle

5 Pulled level with Pooran for most fifties in less than 20 balls. Only Abhishek (6) has more

65 Broke Gayle's 14-year record for most maximums (59) in a season. The wunderkind achieved it in 280 balls compared to the West Indian's 456

490 Scored the most runs in PowerPlay in a season

680 Recorded the most runs by an uncapped batter in an edition

8 Smashed the most sixes in the PowerPlay in one innings

COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

R.V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Abhishek b Shivang 29 *(29b, 4x4)*, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi c Smaran b Praful 97 *(29b, 5x4, 12x6)*, Dhruv Jurel c Nitish b Praful 50 *(21b, 5x4, 3x6)*, Riyan Parag c Klaasen b Praful 26 *(12b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Donovan Ferreira run out 12 *(9b, 1x4)*, Dasun Shanaka c Abhishek b Malinga 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 12 *(9b, 1x4)*, Jofra Archer c Abhishek b Nitish 4 *(5b, 1x4)*, Nandre Burger run out 1 *(1b)*, Sushant Mishra **(Impact Player for Jaiswal)** (not out) 1 *(3b)*; Extras (b-2, nb-1, w-3): 6; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 243.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-125 (Sooryavanshi, 7.6 overs), 2-137 (Jaiswal, 10.2), 3-192 (Jurel, 13.5), 4-207 (Parag, 15.2), 5-214 (Shanaka, 16.1), 6-234 (Ferreira, 18.1), 7-238 (Archer, 18.6), 8-240 (Burger, 19.2).

SUNRISERS BOWLING
Cummins 4-0-64-0, Malinga 4-0-40-1, Sakib 4-0-52-0, Praful 4-0-54-3, Shivang 2-0-19-1, Nitish 2-0-12-1.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Abhishek Sharma c Jurel b Archer 0 *(2b)*, Travis Head b Archer 17 *(8b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Ishan Kishan c Ferreira b Archer 33 *(11b, 3x4, 3x6)*, R. Smaran c Archer b Burger 1 *(4b)*, Heinrich Klaasen lbw b Yash Raj 18 *(10b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Nitish Kumar c Shanaka b Jadeja 38 *(20b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Salil Arora **(Impact Player for Praful)** c Burger b Jadeja 35 *(21b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Pat Cummins c Archer b Sushant 1 *(2b)*, Shivang Kumar c Sooryavanshi b Sushant 27 *(24b, 3x4)*, Eshan Malinga c Archer b Burger 5 *(8b)*, Sakib Hussain (not out) 5 *(7b, 1x4)*; Extras (nb-1, w-15): 16; Total (in 19.2 overs): 196.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Abhishek, 0.2), 2-51 (Kishan, 2.5), 3-52 (Smaran, 3.3), 4-57 (Head, 4.4), 5-81 (Klaasen, 6.5), 6-137 (Nitish, 10.5), 7-139 (Cummins, 11.1), 8-163 (Salil, 14.4), 9-187 (Malinga, 17.3).

ROYALS BOWLING
Archer 4-0-58-3, Burger 3-0-26-2, Brijesh 3-0-31-0, Yash Raj 4-0-39-1, Sushant 2.2-0-21-2, Jadeja 3-0-21-2.

Toss: SRH; **PoM:** Sooryavanshi.
Royals won by 47 runs.

India faces England in final tune-up before T20 World Cup

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Press Trust of India
CHELMSFORD (UK)

India will look to regain consistency and finalise its combination in the final dress rehearsal for next month's Women's T20 World Cup when it takes on host England in a three-match series starting here on Thursday.

India's preparations for the T20 World Cup have been a mixed bag. It began strongly with a commanding 5-0 clean sweep over Sri Lanka at home last December before scripting history in Australia by clinching a 2-1 T20I series victory. The momentum dropped during the subsequent South Africa tour where India endured a disappointing 1-4 defeat in conditions that exposed several concerns ahead of the marquee tournament.

The batting lacked consistency, the middle-order struggled to finish games, and the bowling attack failed to deliver regularly in crunch moments as India looked out of rhythm for most of the series.

The England series thus gives India the opportunity to work on these aspects before its opening match against Pakistan on June 14. England heads into the series missing regular skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt, who is continuing her recovery from a calf injury.

Wily operator: India will be hoping Renuka provides the early breakthroughs. X@BCCIWOMEN

> Winning the World Cup gave us a lot of confidence. We will carry that over to this T20 World Cup. We know how to win and perform under pressure
>
> **HARMANPREET KAUR**
> India captain

The teams (from): England: Charlie Dean (Capt.), Em Arlott, Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Alice Capsey, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Filer, Amy Jones, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Paige Scholfield, Linsey Smith, Danni Wyatt-Hodge and Issy Wong.

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Bharti Fulmali, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wk), Sree Charani, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Nandni Sharma, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Thakur, Kranti Gaud, Shreyanka Patil and Radha Yadav.

The schedule: May 28, Chelmsford (11 p.m.); **May 30**, Bristol (7 p.m.); **June 2**, Taunton (11 p.m.). *All times IST.*

Record-seeking Djokovic battles into the third round; Starodubtseva dumps Rybakina

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Novak Djokovic extended his latest bid for a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam title with a four-set victory over Valentin Royer in the French Open second round on Wednesday, but women's second seed Elena Rybakina crashed out of the tournament.

Swiatek moves up

Elsewhere, four-time champion Iga Swiatek and Elina Svitolina both eased into the last 32 with straight-sets wins.

Djokovic was pushed hard again by another Frenchman in Royer, before finally sealing a 6-3, 6-2, 6-7(7), 6-3 win after three and three-quarter hours.

Australian Open champion Rybakina blew a one-set lead to exit in dramatic fashion, slumping to a 3-6, 6-1, 7-6(4) loss to Ukraine's Yuliia Starodubtseva.

It is Rybakina's earliest departure from any tour-level tournament since the 2025 Miami Open and first defeat in the opening two rounds of a major since the 2024 Australian Open.

Swiatek, looking to regain the title she last won in 2024, saw off battling Czech youngster Sara Bejlek 6-2, 6-3 on Court Philippe Chatrier, while Svitolina, who beat Swiatek en route to the Rome title, beat World No. 126 Kaitlin Quevedo 6-0, 6-4.

Sinner has it easy

Meanwhile on Tuesday, World No. 1 Jannik Sinner put on a typically efficient display moving past French wildcard Clement Tabur 6-1, 6-3, 6-4. After taking all three clay-court Masters 1000 events in the run-up to Roland Garros, the 24-year-old Italian appears to have cracked the code to victory on the red dirt.

However, American fifth seed Jessica Pegula departed as she went down 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 to Australia's Kimberly Birrell.

Thursday's Picks

MEN

1 - Sinner vs. Manuel Cerundolo
4 - Aliassime vs. Burruchaga
5 - Shelton vs. Collignon
10 - Cobolli vs. Wu
14 - Darderi vs. Comesana
16 - Vacherot vs. Tabilo

WOMEN

1 - Sabalenka vs. Jacquemot
4 - Gauff vs. Sheriff
6 - Anisimova vs. Grabher
9 - Mboko vs. Siniakova
16 - Osaka vs. Vekic
17 - Jovic vs. Navarro

Remarkable win: Starodubtseva put paid to World No. 2 Rybakina's aspirations. AP

THE RESULTS

Men: Second round: 26-Mensik (Cze) bt Navone (Arg) 6-3, 2-6, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6(11); 11-Rublev (Rus) bt Carabelli (Arg) 6-1, 1-6, 6-3, 7-6(5); 3-Djokovic (Srb) bt Royer (Fra) 6-3, 6-2, 6-7(7), 6-3; 27-Jodar (Esp) bt Duckworth (Aus) 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-4, 7-5; Halys (Fra) bt 32-Humbert (Fra) 6-4, 7-6(4), 7-6(8).
8-de Minaur (Aus) w/o Blockx (Bel).
Agustin Tirante (Arg) bt 21-Fokina (Esp) 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-1, 6-3; 13-Khachanov (Rus) bt Trungelliti (Arg) 7-6(5), 5-7, 6-1, 7-6(4).
First round: 1-Sinner (Ita) bt Tabur (Fra) 6-1, 6-3, 6-4; 4-Augier-Aliassime (Can) bt Altmaier (Ger) 4-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6(7).
Women: Second round: 15-Kostyuk (Ukr) bt Volynets (USA) 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-3; Linette (Pol) bt 29-Ostapenko (Lat) 6-2, 2-6, 6-2; 27-Bouzkova (Cze) bt Jones (GBr) 6-0, 7-6(3); Wang (Chn) bt 26-Baptiste (USA) 5-4, retd.
Yuliia Starodubtseva (Ukr) bt 2-Rybakina (Kaz) 3-6, 6-1, 7-6(4); 7-Svitolina (Ukr) bt Quevedo (Esp) 6-0, 6-4.
Korpatsch (Ger) bt 32-Wang (Chn) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3; 11-Bencic (Sui) bt McNally (USA) 6-4, 6-0; 3-Swiatek (Pol) bt Bejlek (Cze) 6-2, 6-3.
First round: 9-Mboko (Can) bt Bartunkova (Cze) 6-1, 6-2; 19-Keys (USA) bt Vandewinkel (Bel) 6-3, 6-0; Birrell (Aus) bt 5-Pegula (USA) 1-6, 6-3, 6-3.
Fallen seeds: Women: 2-Rybakina, 5-Pegula, 26-Baptiste, 29-Ostapenko, 32-Wang.

INBRIEF

Sumit Antil shatters own World record en route gold

Sumit Antil claimed the men's javelin F64 gold at the eighth Indian Open Para athletics international championship in Bengaluru on Wednesday with a big throw of 74.82m. Antil's winning attempt bettered his own World record of 73.29m set at the 2022 Asian Para Games. The two-time Paralympic champion got into the groove with a 70.30m fourth attempt, before reserving his best for the fifth try. The Haryana athlete dominated the nine-man field, with Maharashtra's Sandip Sargar taking silver with 62.88m. Antil had won his third straight World para athletics gold at New Delhi last year.

Indian women's hockey team downs Australia in shootout

The Indian women's hockey team came from behind to make it 1-1, before registering a 4-2 win in the shootout against Australia to level the four-match friendly series 1-1 in Perth on Wednesday. Australia took the lead through Olivia Downes in the 10th minute. Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam equalised in the 46th. Navneet Kaur, Ishika Chaudhary, Annu and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal scored for India in the shootout.

Nuno to stay on as West Ham boss after relegation

Nuno Espirito Santo will remain as head coach of West Ham following the club's relegation from the Premier League, the London side announced on Wednesday. There had been speculation that Nuno might leave despite overseeing an upturn in form between January and April, with the Hammers taking 22 points from 13 matches.

Dembele and Hakimi back in PSG training ahead of CL final

Ousmane Dembele and Achraf Hakimi are both back in full training in a tonic for Paris Saint-Germain ahead of their Champions League final against Arsenal on Saturday. Dembele, last year's Ballon d'Or winner, returned after injuring his right calf in Ligue 1 action against Paris FC on May 17. Hakimi sustained a right thigh injury in the thrilling semifinal win over Bayern Munich, but the duo was back, according to social media posts by the Parisian club. Defending champion PSG takes on Arsenal in Budapest.

LIVE TELECAST

French Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 2.30 p.m.; Evening session: Sony Sports Ten 2,3, 5 & LIV, 12 a.m. (Friday).

Ireland vs New Zealand: One-off Test, day 2, FanCode, 3.30 p.m.

England Women vs India Women: 1st T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 11 p.m.

Gukesh goes down to So; Firouzja too good for Pragg

The reigning World champion and the American play out a draw in the classical format before the latter prevails in Armageddon; Carlsen earns his first points with a victory over Keymer

NORWAY CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

Great escape: Carlsen initially appeared to be in trouble, but fought his way back. FLICKR/ NORWAY CHESS

A cat has nine lives is an age-old proverb. World champion D. Gukesh showed his survival instincts to come out unscathed against Vincent Keymer in his Norway Chess opener, but those couldn't stand him in good stead in his second-round match against Wesley So.

Gukesh and So battled it out for 116 moves at Deichman Bjorvika before they signed peace in the classical game, with the Indian Grandmaster unable to take advantage of his superior position.

The American came out on top in the Armageddon late on Tuesday.

R. Praggnanandhaa, the other Indian in the fray in the Open event, was outclassed by Alireza Firouzja while home favourite Magnus Carlsen bounced back from his opening-round defeat to beat Keymer via Armageddon.

Firouzja, who is soldiering on despite an injured ankle, secured his second straight classical win, having shocked Carlsen on Monday.

"I am trying to play chess. I have a lot of pain, but chess is something that keeps me focused. It makes me not think about the pain," the French GM said after his win.

Defending champion Carlsen ran into trouble against Keymer but managed to share the honours in the classical game.

He, however, came up trumps in Armageddon to earn his first points in the tournament.

In the women's event, Divya Deshmukh pipped Koneru Humpy in Armageddon in an all-Indian contest while Bibisara Assaubayeva surged to the lead with a win over Zhu Jiner.

The results: Second round:

Open: Wesley So (USA) bt D. Gukesh in Armageddon; R Praggnanandhaa lost to Alireza Firouzja (Fra); Magnus Carlsen (Nor) bt Vincent Keymer (Ger) in Armageddon.

Women: Zhu Jiner (China) lost to Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz) in Armageddon; Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) bt Ju Wenjun (China) in Armageddon; Divya Deshmukh bt Koneru Humpy in Armageddon.

(The writer is in Oslo at the invitation of Norway Chess).

Zen mode: Divya is a picture of concentration. FLICKR/NORWAY CHESS

Divya enjoys the uniqueness of Norway Chess

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

She comes across as a breath of fresh air in a game where most players aren't too lively and appear reluctant to share bytes. Divya Deshmukh, one of chess' fast-rising talents, seems to enjoy the spotlight and isn't shy of expressing her thoughts.

A debutante at the Norway Chess tournament here, the 20-year-old Indian – who beat compatriot Koneru Humpy to the Women's World Cup title last year – is showing why she's rated so highly, that too in her inimitable style. She put it across Humpy yet again, defeating her in the second round here.

"I'm having a lot of fun with the Armageddon games; I love them. I'm actually enjoying the classical games too because there's no increment. It's my first time here, so it's been really exciting," Divya said.

That's not all. She didn't show hesitation to visit the 'confessional booth', a Norway Chess innovation introduced in 2015, which many Indian players have avoided over the years.

The 'confessional booth' is a private, soundproof room near the playing hall where players can briefly step away during a game to share candid, unfiltered thoughts for live broadcast viewers.

"I think it helps me because when I go there, I can talk about what is going on in my mind. It helps me to calculate better," Divya said. "It was fun. It's a great stress relief especially since you cannot talk for many hours when you play and have to just listen to the voices in your head," she added.

Archer Chikitha's exploits speak loud and clear

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Chikitha Taniparthi may describe herself as soft-spoken and introverted, but her exploits with the bow and arrow have long spoken for her loud and clear.

Last year, she etched her name in history books by winning India's first-ever women's individual gold in the compound category at the under-21 World championships in Canada.

Big support: Chikitha credits Abhishek for her strong showing at the trials. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Transition

The 21-year-old has since made the transition to the senior team and is now set to make her Asian Games debut in Japan later this year.

"She credited Abhishek Verma for her strong showing at the trials.

"I didn't have any expectations going into the trials because in the days leading up to the test, my trigger timing was off and, because of the wind, my scores were very low," she told *The Hindu*.

Chikitha's bid to make the squad was anything but straightforward.

"On the first day, I scored 693 and was ranked 13th. I didn't shoot well. Abhishek *anna* pushed me to not hesitate. I listened to that and scored 351 and 351 (702). The following day, I totalled 353 and 352 (705). In the end, I was ranked sixth. In the round-robin stage, I won three matches in the morning and lost one with a tie. Abhishek kept speaking to me throughout. He even tuned my bow for me, initially. I pushed myself and won all my other matches and finished second."

Bittersweet

Her own selection for the Asian Games was a bittersweet moment, given her mentor Abhishek didn't make the cut.

"Since I came into archery in 2021, Abhishek has been my mentor and has supported me. I have complete trust in him. After I got selected, he told me to become an Asian Games champion and to bring him the toy as a gift."

Gold, World record for Esha in 25m pistol

Press Trust of India
MUNICH

Esha... phenomenal show. ISSF

Three-time World championship medallist Esha Singh bossed the women's 25m pistol final with a World record score of 43 as she clinched the gold to open India's medal count on the second day of the ISSF World Cup here on Wednesday.

In a power-packed final, the 21-year-old Esha shot perfect fives in half of the 10 series of five shots, leaving home favourite and former World champion Doreen Vennekamp a full five shots behind for silver. Bulgarian Miroslava Mincheva won the bronze.

It was Esha's fourth individual World Cup medal.

Manu Bhaker and Rahi Sarnobat shot 582 and 581 to finish 12th and 14th in the 98-strong field.

In the women's 50m rifle 3 positions, Ashi Chouksey missed out on a place in the finals by one point after she finished 10th effectively (12th overall), with 589 in a field of 70 shooters (including RPO).

Randhir Singh passes away

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Randhir...end of an era. PTI

Veteran sports administrator and India's first shooting gold-medallist in Asian Games, Randhir Singh, died here on Wednesday after battling age-related ailments, marking the end of an era in the country's sporting landscape on which he left a lasting impact in varied roles.

He was 79 and was hospitalised for several days before breathing his last at his residence here. He is survived by wife Vinita and three daughters – Mahima, Sunaina and Rajeshwari, who is also a shooter.

Randhir recently quit his position as the President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) due to health issues. He was elected to the OCA top position for a four-year term in 2024, having already served as Secretary-General from 1991 to 2015.

Randhir's career included five Olympic appearances and the trap gold at the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games that earned him the Arjuna Award in 1979.

His Olympic appearances came in 1964 Tokyo (reserve shooter), 1968 Mexico, 1972 Munich, 1976 Montreal, 1980 Moscow and 1984 Los Angeles.

He served as the Secretary-General of the IOA from 1987 to 2010 and was also a member of the IOC in different capacities from 2001 to 2014. In 2003, he became IOC's representative in the WADA for two years.

Harmanpreet returns to lead India

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Harmanpreet Singh on Wednesday returned to lead a 24-member Indian men's hockey squad for the European leg of next month's FIH Pro League.

The squad will be in Rotterdam in the Netherlands from June 10 for the Pro League matches against Germany and the host, scheduled for June 14 to 21. Thereafter, the Indian team will fly to London, where it will face Pakistan and England in the Pro League from June 23 to 28.

The Squad: Goalkeepers: H.S. Mohith, Suraj Karkera; **Defenders:** Harmanpreet Singh (Capt.), Amit Rohidas, Sumit, Sanjay, Yashdeep Siwach, Amandeep Lakra, Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh; **Midfielders:** Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Rajinder Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem; **Forwards:** Mandeep Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Abhishek, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Dilpreet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, S. Karthi.

Prannoy stuns Christie in Singapore Open

Drought ends: Prannoy registered his first win over Christie in five years. INSTAGRAM/BAI_MEDIA

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SINGAPORE

H.S. Prannoy notched up a 10-21, 21-12, 21-18 over fifth seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia to advance to the men's singles second round at the Singapore Open badminton tournament on Wednesday.

Later, Lakshya Sen got the better China's Lu Guang Zu 21-17, 21-15 to move up. The mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto also progressed after beating Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien 21-14, 20-22, 21-13.

The results (first round):

Men: H.S. Prannoy bt Jonatan Christie (Ina) 10-21, 21-12, 21-18.

Loh Kean Yew (Sgp) bt K. Srikanth 22-20, 19-21, 21-17.

Lakshya Sen bt Lu Guang Zu (Chn) 21-17, 21-15.

Women: Lin Hsiang Ti (Tpe) bt Malvika Bansod 11-21, 21-19, 21-12.

Mixed doubles: Dhruv Kapila & Tanisha Crasto bt Wong Tien Ci & Lim Chiew Sien (Mas) 21-14, 20-22, 21-13.

Hakimi, Diaz headline Morocco's WC squad

FOOTBALL

Agence France-Presse
RABAT

Paris Saint-Germain's Achraf Hakimi and Real Madrid star Brahim Diaz headline the Morocco squad for the FIFA World Cup unveiled on Tuesday by coach Mohamed Ouahbi.

Meanwhile, the Netherlands top scorer Memphis Depay recovered from injury just in time for coach Ronald Koeman to include him in his 26-man squad.

The squads: NETHERLANDS: Goalkeepers: Mark Flekken, Robin Roefs, Bart Verbruggen; **Defenders:** Nathan Ake, Virgil van Dijk, Denzel Dumfries, Jorrel Hato, Jan Paul van Hecke, Micky van de Ven, Jurrien Timber; **Midfielders:** Ryan Gravenberch, Frenkie de Jong, Teun Koopmeiners, Tijjani Reijnders, Marten de Roon, Guus Til, Quinten Timber, Mats Wieffer; **Forwards:** Brian Brobbey, Memphis Depay, Cody Gakpo, Justin Kluivert, Noa Lang, Donyell Malen, Crysencio Summerville and Wout Weghorst.

MOROCCO: Goalkeepers: Yassine Bounou, Munir El Kajoui, Ahmed Reda Tagnaouti; **Defenders:** Noussair Mazraoui, Anas Salah-Eddine, Youssef Bellammari, Achraf Hakimi, Zakaria El Ouahdi, Nayef Aguerd, Chadi Riad, Redouane Halhal, Issa Diop; **Midfielders:** Samir El Mourabet, Ayoub Bouaddi, Neil El Aynaoui, Sofyan Amrabat, Azzedine Ounahi, Bilal El Khannouss, Ismael Saibari; **Forwards:** Abdesamad Ezzalzouli, Chemsdine Talbi, Soufiane Rahimi, Ayoub El Kaabi, Brahim Diaz, Yassine Gessim and Ayoube Amaimouni-Echghouyab.

UNITED STATES: Goalkeepers: Chris Brady, Matt Freese Matt Turner; **Defenders:** Max Arfsten, Sergino Dest, Alex Freeman, Mark McKenzie, Tim Ream, Chris Richards, Antonee Robinson, Miles Robinson, Joe Scally, Auston Trusty; **Midfielders:** Tyler Adams, Sebastian Berhalter, Weston McKennie, Cristian Roldan, Brenden Aaronson, Christian Pulisic, Gio Reyna, Malik Tillman, Tim Weah, Alejandro Zendejas; **Forwards:** Folarin Balogun, Ricardo Pepi and Haji Wright.

TN women enter the semifinals

Sports Bureau

Defending champion Tamil Nadu reached the women's semifinals, drubbing Rajasthan 64-36 in the National junior basketball championships in Puducherry on Wednesday.

The results (quarterfinals):

Men: Rajasthan 63 (Muhammed Raza Khan 23, Manish Kumar Maal 14, Divyansh Shekhawat 10, Bhupendra Singh Rathore 10) bt Uttar Pradesh 61 (Shourya Pandey 19, Ansh Tomar 13).

Karnataka 84 (Vjayeendra Vedhanthi 22, Vibhav Gowda 12, Adithya Vittal Shenoi 11) bt Tamil Nadu 72 (Yadesh Kumar 20, V. Sumanesh 17, U.S. Sujeeth 12, Shakeel Niyasdeen 11).

Women: Tamil Nadu 64 (Ritika Rajasekharan 15, M. Kaviya 13) bt Rajasthan 36 (Ankita 18).

Chhattisgarh 56 (Anjani 11, Sophy Sika 11, Adit Kodapae 10) bt Maharashtra 44 (Vedhika 18).

Kerala 72 (K. Arthika 18, Subadra Jayakumar 16, Liya Maria 10) bt Haryana 47 (Kanika 13).

Karnataka 76 (Nidhi Umesh 22, Sravani Shivanna 19, Nilaaya Reddy 15) bt Madhya Pradesh 58 (Laxita Choudhari 19, Swetha Singh 13).

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SURGEON, SNR DISTRICT HOSPITAL, KOLAR

Phone No.08152-222035/36, Email.dskolar@gmail.com
NO: SNR/DIET/01/2025-26 Date:21.05.2026

E -TENDER INVITATION (3rd CALL)

Bids are hereby invited for the supply of fresh Bread, Fruits, Vegetables and Diet articles to SNR dist. hospital, Kolar. Details of tender terms and conditions are available on e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tendering authority reserves the right to cancel any or all e-bids without assigning any reasons bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. Estimated Cost Rs. 78,35,075/- EMD :Rs.1,95,876/- , Last date for submission 04.06.2026, 3:30 PM.

Sd/- District Surgeon, SNR Dist. Hospital, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:85/KSMCA/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

STATE EXCISE DEPARTMENT

Office of the Excise Commissioner, 2nd Floor, TTMC 'A' Block, BMTC Building, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027

E-tender Notification

Sub: Supply & Installation of Check Post Container (Customized) (03) NO's to specified locations of districts of Karnataka. **Ref:** GeM Publish Date:26.05.2026.

Inviting all the eligible manufactures through online Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal **"https://gem. gov.in/"**, (GeM BID NO:GEM/2026/B/7559602) for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Check-Post Containers (Customized) to Districts of Karnataka. Selection of the tender will be in two bid system (Technical & Financial Bid).

Scope of Work & Timeline:-

Supply and Installation of Check-Post Containers to the below mentioned location of districts of Karnataka.

(Time Line :- 15 days from the order date)

1.Kadechur (PutPak), Yadagiri district. **2.** Nangali, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar district. **3.** Kanakumbi, Khanapur taluk, Belagavi district.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/861/Zen/2026-27 **Excise Commissioner, Bengaluru**

University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore

NAAC A' Accredited,Estate Office, GKVK, Bengaluru-560 065.

No. NOTIFICATION NO.EO/TN/MP HOSTEL /2026-27 Date : 25-05-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kpp Portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in Two cover system in the prescribed form from the reputed Manpower supply Agencies for the following works. The details of the notification, condition of two cover system, schedule, specifications, terms and conditions are available in the website **www.kppp. karnataka.gov.in.** The cost of tender document is as per KPP Portal. The EMD has to be paid in the KPP Portal using KPP payment mode.

Sl. No.	Description	Approximate Amount put to Tender in lakhs	E.M.D. (in ₹)
1.	Supply of Manpower personnel to various Hostels at UAS, Bangalore.	313.00	4,69,500/-

Duration: 1 Year. The above Tender will be under two cover system and the conditions for two cover systems is also uploaded in the website.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (1) Pre-bid Meeting on : **03-06-2026 at 10:30 a.m. (2)** Last date for uploading of Tender on : **05-06-2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (3)** Opening of Technical Bid on : **08-06-2026 at 10:30 a.m (4)** Opening of Financial Bid on : **11-06-2026 at 10:30 a.m.**

Further, details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and Phone Number 080-23332765. For more details please contact e-portal help desk @ **support@eprochelpdesk.com or 8046010000/ 8068948777** on working days.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/RO833/AAPL/2026-27 **ESTATE OFFICER**

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ3:ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:03:2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:26.05.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಅಮೃತ್ 2.0 ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ– 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2026–27 ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ – 06 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 02 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಸೇವಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮತ್ತು 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನೀರುಸರಬರಾಜಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 10 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡಬಲ್/ಸಿಂಗಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/ ನೀರುಸರಬರಾಜು) ರವರು ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಶಾಖೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192 234444 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ : 1) ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮುಂದೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 2) ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಅದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

(1) ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 05.06.2026 ಸಮಯ: 17.00 **(2)** ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 06.06.2026 ಸಮಯ 17.30 **(3)** ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.06.2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ನಂತರ **(4)** ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 25.06.2026 ಸಮಯ: 17.00 **(5)** ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 29.06.2026 ಸಮಯ 17.30 **(6)** ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್(>100 ಲಕ್ಷ) ದಿನಾಂಕ: : 16.06.2026 ಸಮಯ 11:00 **(7)** ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.07.2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ನಂತರ

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/104/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat Shivamogga

Office of The Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Divison, Sagara.

No:EE/PRD/SD/KW-1,2 & 3/AE/JE/26-27/534 Date: 25.05.2026

Tender Notice (Through KPPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Department, Sagara, on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, invites item-wise e-tenders are invited for the below mentioned works from eligible contractors registered with the Public Works Department and registered under the KPPP "www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in " for execution of works under the following schemes : 5054 SCP/TSP for the year 2023-24 , SCP/TSP Scheme for the year 2025-26 , MGNREGA and ICDS Integration Scheme for the year 2025-26 , PM Shri Scheme , Comprehensive Development of 4702 Lakes for the year 2022-23 ,MP LAD for the year 2025-26 ,Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme (CMIDP) for the year 2025-26 , 5054 Rain Relief Project for the year 2024-25

Schedule:

1. Tender form download date: From 25.05.2026 up to 08.06.2026 **2.** Last date for submission of tender forms: 08.06.2026 at 16:00 hrs **3.** Bid opening date: 09.06.2026 at 16:01 hrs

Categories: • General Works: 26740, 26748, 26751, 26636, 24227/CALL-3 • Category II-A Works: 26747 • Category I Works: 26750 • SC Category Works: 26749, 26746, 22268/CALL-2 • ST Category Works: 26841

Details of the KPPP tender can be viewed and downloaded from www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also from the office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Department, Sagara. For further information, contractors may contact the Content Manager during office hours through the office phone number: 08183-226064. Contractors may also contact the Help Desk numbers: 080-25501216 / 25501227.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Department, Sagara

DIPR/smg/ smca/26-27/115/05/285

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works on **Partial Turnkey Basis.**

I. No. CEE/Tr(OP)Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/2026-27/1817-19 Date: 25.05.2026

Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/Tr(o)Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/2025-26/102 dt:11.02.2026 (Call-2) Augmentation of 1x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer by 1x12.5 MVA 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11KV Lingadahalli** sub-station in Pavagada Taluk, Madhugiri Operation Division, KPTCL, Tumkur including supply of equipments/materials, Dismantling and erection (including civil works), on Percentage Tender Basis (Power Transformer & NIFES will be supplied by KPTCL, Testing and commissioning will be carried out by KPTCL).

II. No. CEE/TKR/Tr(OP)Z/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2026-27/1824-26 Date: 25.05.2026

Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TKR/TR(O)Z)/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/**Enq-0083** Dated: 18.11.2025 **CALL-2, Enq-0040, 0045** Dated: 25.08.2025 **CALL-3** and **Enq-0044, 0046** Dated: 11.09.2025 **CALL-4.**

1) Providing 03 no's of 11kV, 500MVA, 25kA, 1250A MCVCB Feeder switchgear (3F+1AP) at 66/11kv **Bellavi S/S**, in Tumakuru Operations Division. **CALL-2.**

2) Providing Additional 01 no of MEI Make, 350MVA, 20KA, Outdoor type 800A feeder panel and Annunciator panel (1F+1AP for feeder) SCADA compatible PCVCB at 66/11kv **Pattanayanakanahalli** sub-station, Madhugiri Operation Division. **CALL-3.**

3) Providing Additional 01 no of MEI Make, 350MVA, 20KA, Outdoor type 800A feeder panel and Annunciator panel (1F+1AP for feeder) SCADA compatible PCVCB required at 66/11KV sub-station **Chikkabanagere** in Madhugiri Operation Division. **CALL-3.**

4) Providing Additional 02 no's of 11kV MEI Make PCVCB type feeder breaker at 66/11kV **C.T.Kere sub-station** in Tumakuru Operations Division. **CALL-4.**

5) Providing Additional 02 no's of MEI Make, 350MVA, 20KA, Outdoor type 800A feeder panel and Annunciator panel (2F+1AP for feeder) SCADA compatible PCVCB required at 66/11kV **Bukkapattana sub-station** in Madhugiri Operation Division. **CALL-4**.

Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TRZ(O)/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2026-27/**Enq-006, 007, 008, 009, 0010 Dated: 19.05.2026 Call-1. (Breakers will be supplied by KPTCL).**

6) Providing 01 no of 11kV Incomer and 02 no's of 11kV Feeder Breakers of MEI Make, PCVCB type Switchgears at **66/11KV sub-station Nandihalli** in Gubbi Nodal Center, KPTCL, Operation Division, Tumakuru.

7) Replacement of deteriorated age old1l/s+4F+1AP PCVCB type Bank-2 switchgear by new MEI make switchgears at **66/11kV Hosakere sub-station** in Gubbi Nodal Center, KPTCL, Operation Division, Tumakuru.

8) Providing Additional 02 no's of 11kV Feeder Breakers of MEI Make, PCVCB type Switchgears at **66/11KV S/s Urdigere** in Antharasanahalli Nodal Center, KPTCL, Operation Division, Tumakuru.

9) Providing Additional 02 no's of 11kV Feeder Breakers of MEI Make, PCVCB type Switchgears at **110/11KV S/s Kadaba** in Gubbi Nodal Center, KPTCL, Operation Division, Tumakuru.

10) Providing Additional 02 no's of 11kV Feeder Breakers of MEI Make, MCVCB type Switchgears (2F+1AP) at **110/11KV S/s Chikkanayakanahalli** in C.N Halli Nodal Center, KPTCL, Operation Division, K.B Cross.

The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in KPP portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" OR **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.05.2026** and other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer (Electy.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavana", 1st Floor, 66/11kV Tumakuru S/s Premises, Tumakuru.**

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KARNATAKA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Tumkur Division, Karnataka, Telephone : 0816 2272479.

No.EE/KPWD/Tmk/JE-3/T.No.16/2026-27/ Dt. 26-05-2026

Invitation For Tender (IFT) KW-4 E-TENDER NOTIFICATION.

On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in **Two** cover system for Class-3 & above Contractors registered in PWD for 01 work under 5054 MDR Improvements Head of account in the jurisidiction of Tumkur Division through KPPP- Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The dates are published as below.

(Amount Put to Tender Rs.156.97 Lakhs EMD Amount Rs. 2,35,461/-)

1	Last date for tender information enquiries	**09-06-2026: 17-00**
2	Last date for submission of tender.	**10-06-2026: 16-00**
3	Date of opening the Technical bid.	**11-06-2026: 16-30**
4	Date of opening the Financial bid.	**12-06-2026 : 17-00**

Note: Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered, Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in E-Portal Only

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/TUM/RO-37/26-27/Oysters P.W.D Division, Tumkur

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು – 10.
(Ph. No: 0821-2979772 E-mail:-khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com)
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–1/ಟೆಂಡರ್–05/**HWC-Call-2**/2026–27/ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21.05.2026**

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ Construction of Health and Wellness Centre at Doddavaddaragudi in K.R.nagara Taluk, Mysore District.(Call-2) (ರೂ.65.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು) ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ & ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: **1)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:29.05.2026 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್): 30.05.2026 ರಂದು 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ: 1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ/ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. **2)** ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/DDMYS/232/KSMCA/173/2026-27

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KORAKUTI Sathya Vathi mother of Korakuti Dharma Rao presently residing at: Tower-8/101, Purva Zenium, Hosahalli, Bangalore-562157, have changed by name from Korakuti Sathya Vathi to Korakuti Satyavathi vide affidavit dated 27-05-2026 sworn before Notary H.Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

I, KORAKUTI Sri Satya Jeet legal son of Korakuti Dharma Rao, R/at : Tower-8/101, Purva Zenium, Hosahalli, Bangalore-562157, have changed by name from Korakuti Sri Satya Jeet to Korakuti Sri Satyajeet vide affidavit dated 27-05-2026 sworn before Notary H. Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

I, NAGAVALLI Shruti korakuti spouse of Korakuti Dharma Rao presently residing at: Tower-8/101, Purva Zenium, Hosahalli, Bangalore-562157, have changed by name from Nagavalli Shruti Korakuti to Korakuti Nagavalli Sruthi, vide affidavit dated 27-05-2026 sworn before Notary H. Sridhar Rao, Bangalore

I, MS Shabari Nanjappa Aiyappa (old name) w/o Mr Lehnn Aiyyapa residing at Renaissance Prospero Apts, BB Road, Byatarayanapura Bangalore 560092, have changed my name to Ms Shabri Aiyappa (new name) for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15 April 2026 sworn before notary Mohan KB.

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BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/05/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Call-04)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount Put to Tender per annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Contract Period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Bangalore South-1 division (Package-20) **Call-04.**	1,438.14	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.14,00,000/-** by bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries : **01.06.2026 before17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting : **02.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **09.06.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **10.06.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/868/2026-27 **Sd/- Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/04/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Call-04)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount Put to Tender per annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Contract Period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Sarvagna Nagara division (Package-3) **Call-04.**	1,751.21	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.16,51,000/-** by bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries : **01.06.2026 before17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting : **02.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **09.06.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **10.06.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/866/2026-27 **Sd/- Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/06/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Call-04)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount Put to Tender per annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Contract Period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in K.R. Puram-1 division (Package-26) **Call-04.**	1,416.48	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.14,00,000/-** by bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries : **01.06.2026 before17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting : **02.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **09.06.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **10.06.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/869/2026-27 **Sd/- Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/09/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Call-04)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount Put to Tender per annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Contract Period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Byatarayanapura division (Package-33) **Call-04.**	2,265.34	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.21,65,000/-** by bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank.	84 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries : **01.06.2026 before17:30 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting : **02.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **09.06.2026 before 17:30 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **10.06.2026 after 17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/870/2026-27 **Sd/- Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

Shri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports

Shri. D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Historic Decision by the **Government of Karnataka!**

The Government of Karnataka has approved the implementation of

2% Sports Reservation

for meritorious sportspersons in direct recruitment across all levels of all departments in the State Government.

Additionally, a **3% reservation for sportspersons** has been implemented in the direct recruitment of the Police Department for the posts of Constable, Sub-Inspector and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DYSP).

Sports-friendly government, sports-friendly Chief Minister

Also, meritorious medal-winning sportspersons of the Olympics Games, Paralympics Games, Asian Games, Asian Para Games and Commonwealth Games are being directly recruited to **Group-A, Group-B and other government posts** in State Government departments through a Selection Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka.

Commissioner,
Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports

Principal Secretary to Government
Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports

State Youth Centre, Nrupatunga Road, Bangalore -560001.
Youth Helpline: 155265

Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports | Dyes_Karnataka | dyesdept@gmail.com | dyes.karnataka.gov.in

ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು

ದೂ.ಸಂ: 080-22111177
ಬೇಗೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 560 100
e-Mail:ka.doddathoguru.tp@gmail.com | Web: www.doddathoguru.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂ.ದೊಪಪಂ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/04/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.05.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಟ್ಟದಾಸನಪುರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯ ಸ್ವಂತ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅದರಂತೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

Sl No	Indent No.
01	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK INDENT 58572
02	DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK INDENT 58400
03	DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK INDENT 58401

1. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.06.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** 2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.06.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸ ಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 3. ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜೆ ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯ ಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 4. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–22111177. ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **ka.doddathoguru.tp@gmail.com**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ,
ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ,
ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/858/2026–27

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, BANGALORE

Estate Office, GKVK campus, Bangalore-560065

No. EO/TN/5/2026-27 DATED: 22.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW4 from the registered KPWD/ PWD/Contractors for the SI. No.1. The details of the notification, tender document, specifications are available in the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-Procurement payment modes.

The above works are under Two Cover system. The details for two cover system is to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document.

The Blank Tender Documents can be down loaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The pre-bid meeting will be held on **03.06.2026 at 10.30 AM.** in the Tender Room of Estate Office. Last date and time for uploading is **04.06.2026 upto 4.00 P.M.** The Technical Bid will be opened on **06.06.2026 at 10.30 A.M.** The Financial Bid will be opened on **16.06.2026 at 10.30 A.M.** For more details please contact e-portal help desk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com** or 8046010000/ 8068948777 on working days and this office during working hour, Phone No.080-23332765.

Sd/-
Estate Officer

DIPR/CP/840/NR/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

No.ST-OE-PF-0018-2022 - 2646/ST, Dated : 27/05/26

Applications are invited from intending candidates from Statutory Universities under State/Central Government, Scientific organizations/Institutions of State Govt. / Central Govt. for filling up of **One (01) post of Senior Scientist and Two (02) posts of Junior Scientist in Science & Technology Department, Government of Odisha.**

Last date of submission of application : **29.06.2026**

For any query, contact Under Secretary to Govt., Science & Technology Department Phone No.- **0674-2393496**

For details of advertisement, please visit the website : **https://st.odisha.gov.in & https://odisha.gov.in**

Sd/- S.Mohanty
Additional Secretary
OIPR-28001/28001/1/26-27/0001

28001/7/2627

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHALKI

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪುಸಭಾ /ಇಎನ್‌ಜಿ/ಅಮೃತ್–2/ಸಿಆರ್– /2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26–05–2026

:: TENDER NOTIFCATION ::

1) Name of work Indent no: 58101, 57935 & 58427, 2) Estimated cost As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 3) Eligibility of Agency/ Consultant As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ kppp, 4) EMD amount As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 5)Last date for submission of tender 11-06-2026 (58427) & 29-06-2026 (58101, 57935) ಸಾ: 4.30 pm, 6) Technical bid opening 30-06-2026 (58101, 57935) ಸಾ: 4.30 pm, 7) Financial bid opening 12-06-2026(58427) & 02-07-2026 (58101, 57935) ಸಾ: 5.00 pm, 8) Address for communication Chief Officer Town Municipal Council Bhalki Pin code 585328 Phone No: 8892941328 Email : ka.bhalki.tmc@gmail.com, 9) Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Sd/- CHIEF OFFICER
TMC BHALKI

DIPR/Bidar/41/KSMC&A/2026-27

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor,
BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No.DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/07/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only) (Call-04)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Contract Period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in RR Nagara-1 division. (Package-30) Call-04.	1,633.64	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.15,34,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank	84 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in KPP portal: **01.06.2026** before **17:30 Hrs.**
2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: **02.06.2026** at **15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office.
3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender **09.06.2026** before **17:30 hrs.** 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **10.06.2026** after **17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy General Manager -1
BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/863/CCL/2026-27

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor,
BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No.DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/08/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only) (Call-04)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Contract Period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in RR Nagara-2 division (Package-31) Call-04	1,859.56	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.17,60,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank	84 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in KPP portal: **01.06.2026** before **17:30 Hrs.**
2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: **02.06.2026** at **15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office.
3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender **09.06.2026** before **17:30 hrs.** 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **10.06.2026** after **17:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy General Manager -1
BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/864/CCL/2026-27

TELANGANA STATE INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U99000TG2014SGC095514
REGISTERED OFFICE: 6TH FLOOR, PARISHRAMA BHAVAN, BASHEERBAGH, HYDERABAD - 500004
Email: co-secretary-iic@telangana.gov.in , Website: www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in

UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2026

Sl. No.	Particulars	3 Months ended 31.03.2026	3 Months ended 31.12.2025	3 Months ended 31.03.2025	Year ended 31.03.2026	For the year ended 31.03.2025
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations (In Lakhs)	3,48,428.65	1,48,742.89	20,543.92	5,20,348.68	55,370.50
2.	"Net Profit (Loss) for the period (before Tax,Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)(In Lakhs)"	-11,102.21	-7,663.80	-9,934.72	-55,161.42	-5,557.06
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)(In Lakhs)	-11,102.21	-7,663.80	-9,934.72	-55,161.42	-5,557.06
4.	"Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after tax (afterExceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)(In Lakhs)"	-11,102.21	-7,663.80	-9,040.19	-55,161.42	-5,557.06
5.	"Total Comprehensive Income for the period[Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)](In Lakhs)"	-11,102.21	-7,663.80	-9,029.08	-55,161.42	-2,926.24
6.	"Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of (₹) 1000 Each)"	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)(In Lakhs)	-11,102.21	-4,891.16	NA	21338.67	76,500.09
8.	Net worth (In Crores)	-111.02	-48.91	744.09	220.20	782.53
9.	Debt Equity Ratio (times)	16.48	32.47	14.35	48.95	14.28
10	**Earnings Per Share (EPS) (₹) (Not Annualised) (Face Value ₹ 1000 per share)**					
	Basic EPS	-1,11,02,210.00	-76,63,800.00	-90,40,190.00	-5,51,61,420.00	-55,57,060.00
	Diluted EPS	-16,290.13	-11,244.99	-13,264.55	-80,937.63	-8,153.80
11	Capital Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
12	Debenture Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
13	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (No.of Times)	0.40	0.03	0.58	0.42	0.83
14	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (No.of Times)	0.03	0.68	0.61	0.43	0.77

Notes
1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchange(s)under regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchange-National Stock Exchange (NSE) website www.nseindia.com and on the company website www.tgiic.telangana.gov.in

Date: 26-05-2026
Place: Hyderabad

Sd/-
For and on behalf of the Board
K. Shashanka
Vice Chairman & Managing Director
DIN: 07900230

DIPR R.O. NO. : 179-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 DT: 27-05-2026

A BG-BGE